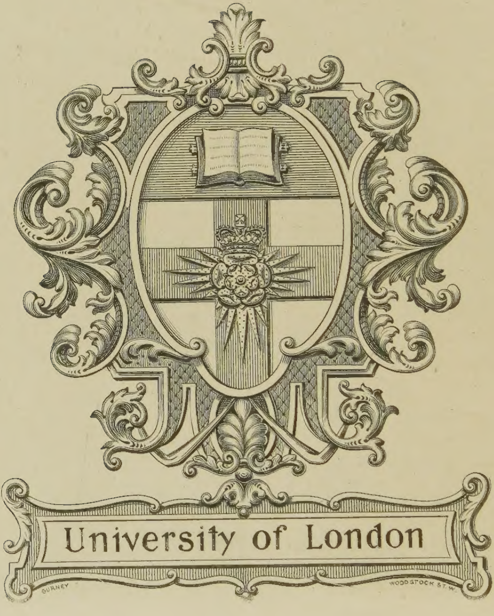
THIS BOOK
MUST NOT BE REMOVED
FROM THE LIBRARY

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON LIBRARY

PARL. PAPERS
FOR REFERENCE ONLY.


University of London
GURNEY
WOODSTOCK ST. W.

616986

THE

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(AUTHORISED EDITION),

FOURTH SERIES.

FOURTH SESSION OF THE TWENTY-SEVENTH PARLIAMENT

OF THE

UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.

3 EDWARD VII.

VOLUME CXXV.

COMPRISING THE PERIOD FROM THE EIGHTH DAY OF JULY TO THE TWENTY-SECOND DAY OF JULY, 1903.

EIGHTH VOLUME OF SESSION.

1903.

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED,
UNDER CONTRACT WITH HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE,
BY
WYMAN AND SONS, LIMITED, FETTER LANE, LONDON.

8472

Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2026

https://archive.org/details/parliamentary-debates_july-08-july-22-1903_125

CHRONOLOGY OF "THE PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES."

THE PARLIAMENTARY HISTORY contains all that can be collected of the Legislative History of this country from the Conquest to the close of the XVIIIth Century (1803), 36 vols. The chief sources whence these Debates are derived are the Constitutional History, 24 vols.; Sir Simonds D'Ewes' Journal; Debates of the Commons in 1620 and 1621; Chandler and Timberland's Debates, 22 vols.; Grey's Debates of the Commons, from 1667 to 1694, 10 vols.; Almon's Debates, 24 vols.; Debrett's Debates, 63 vols.; The Hardwicke Papers; Debates in Parliament by Dr. Johnson, &c., &c.

THE PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES commence with the year 1803, and the contents are set forth in the following Chronological Table:—

HISTORY.

CONQUEST to 34 GEO. II.—1066 to 1760.

Vol. 1 to 15, 1 Will. I. to 34 Geo. II.
1066-1760

REIGN OF GEORGE III.—1760 to 1820.

Vol. 15 to 35, 1 Geo. III. to 40 Geo. III.
1760-1800

(First Parliament.)

Vol.	35	41	Geo. III	1801
—	36	42	—	1802

(Second Parliament.)

Vol.	36	42	Geo. III.	1802-3

DEBATES.

First Series.

(Second Parliament—*continued.*)

Vol.	1 & 2	44	Geo. III.	1803-4
—	3 to 5	45	—	1805
—	6 & 7	46	—	1806

(Third Parliament.)

Vol.	8 & 9	47	Geo. III.	1806-7

(Fourth Parliament.)

Vol.	9 to 11	48	Geo. III.	1807-8
—	12 — 14	49	—	1809
—	15 — 17	50	—	1810
—	18 — 20	51	—	1810-11
—	21 — 23	52	—	1812

(Fifth Parliament.)

Vol.	24 to 26	53	Geo. III.	1812-13
—	27 & 28	54	—	1813-14
—	29 to 31	55	—	1814-15
—	32 — 34	56	—	1816
—	35 & 36	57	—	1817
—	37 — 38	58	—	1818

(Sixth Parliament.)

Vol.	39 & 40	59	Geo. III.	1819
—	41	60	—	1819-20

Second Series.

REIGN OF GEORGE IV.—1820 to 1830

(Seventh Parliament.)

Vol.	1 to 3	1	Geo. IV.	1820
	4 & 5	2	—	1821
—	6 — 7	3	—	1822
—	8 — 9	4	—	1823
—	10 — 11	5	—	1824
—	12 — 13	6	—	1825-6
—	14 — 15	7	—	1826

(Eighth Parliament.)

Vol.	16	7	Geo. IV.	1826
—	17	8	—	1827
—	18 & 19	9	—	1828
—	20 — 21	10	—	1829
—	22 to 25	11	—	1830

Third Series.

REIGN OF WILLIAM IV.—1830 to 1837.

(Ninth Parliament.)

Vol.	1 to 3	1	Will. IV.	1830-1

(Tenth Parliament.)

Vol.	4 to 8	2	Will. IV.	1831
—	9 — 14	3	—	1832

(Eleventh Parliament.)

Vol.	15 to 20	4	Will. IV.	1833
—	21 — 25	5	—	1834

(Twelfth Parliament.)

Vol.	26 to 30	6	Will. IV.	1835
—	31 — 35	7	—	1836
—	36 — 38	8	—	1837

REIGN OF VICTORIA—1837 to 1901.

(Thirteenth Parliament.)

Vol.	39 to 44	1	Victoria	1838
—	45 — 50	2	—	1839
—	51 — 55	3	—	1840
—	56 — 58	4	—	(a) 1841

(Fourteenth Parliament.)

Vol.	59	4	Victoria	(b) 1841
—	60 to 65	5	—	1842
—	66 — 71	6	—	1843
—	72 — 76	7	—	1844
—	77 — 82	8	—	1845
—	83 — 88	9	—	1846
—	89 — 94	10	—	(a) 1847

(Fifteenth Parliament.)

Vol.	95	10	Victoria	(b) 1847
—	96 to 101	11	—	1848
—	102 — 107	12	—	1849
—	108 — 113	13	—	1850
—	114 — 118	14	—	1851
—	119 — 122	15	—	(a) 1852

(Sixteenth Parliament.)

Vol.	123	15	Victoria	(b) 1852
—	124 to 129	16	—	1853
—	130 — 135	17	—	1854
—	136 — 139	18	—	1855
—	140 — 143	19	—	1856
—	144	20	—	(a) 1857

(Seventeenth Parliament.)

Vol.	145 to 147	20	Victoria	(b) 1857
—	148 — 151	21	—	1858
—	152 — 153	22	—	(a) 1859

(Eighteenth Parliament.)

Vol.	154 to 155	22	Victoria	(b) 1859
—	156 — 160	23	—	1860
—	161 — 164	24	—	1861
—	165 — 168	25	—	1862
—	169 — 172	26	—	1863
—	173 — 176	27	—	1864
—	177 — 180	28	—	1865

(Nineteenth Parliament.)

Vol.	181 to 184	29	Victoria	1866
—	185 — 189	30	—	1867
—	190 — 193	31	—	1867-8

(Twentieth Parliament.)

Vol.	194 to 198	32	Victoria	1868-9
—	199 — 203	33	—	1870
—	204 — 208	34	—	1871
—	209 — 213	35	—	1872
—	214 — 217	36	—	1873

(Twenty-First Parliament.)

Vol.	218 to 221	37	Victoria	1874
—	222 — 226	38	—	1875
—	227 — 231	39	—	1876
—	232 — 236	40	—	1877
—	237 — 242	41	—	1878
—	243 — 249	42	—	1878-9
—	250 & 251	43	—	(a) 1880

(Twenty-Second Parliament.)

Vol.	252 to 256	43	Victoria	(b) 1880
—	257 — 265	44	—	1881
—	266 — 273	45	—	(a) 1882
—	274 & 275	45	—	(b) 1882
—	276 to 283	46	—	1883
—	284 — 292	47	—	1884
—	293 — 301	48	—	1884-5

(Twenty-Third Parliament.)

Vol.	302 to 307	49	Victoria	(a) 1886

(Twenty-Fourth Parliament.)

Vol.	308 & 309	49	Victoria	(b) 1886
—	310 to 321	50	—	1887
—	322 — 332	51	—	1888
—	333 — 340	52	—	1889
—	341 — 348	53	—	1890
—	349 — 356	54	—	1890-1

Fourth Series.

(Twenty-Fourth Parliament—*cont.*)

Vol.	1 to 6	55	Victoria	1892

(Twenty-Fifth Parliament.)

Vol.	7	56	Victoria	1892
—	8 to 21	57	—	1893-4
—	22 — 29	57	—	1894
—	30 — 35	58	—	1895

(Twenty-Sixth Parliament.)

Vol.	36	59	Victoria	1895
—	37 to 44	59	—	1895-6
—	45 — 52	60	—	1897
—	53 — 65	61	—	1898
—	66 — 76	62	—	1899
—	77	63	—	1899
—	78 — 83	63	—	1900
—	84	63 & 64	—	1900
—	85 — 87	64	—	1900

(Twenty-Seventh Parliament.)

Vol.	88	64	Victoria	1900

REIGN OF EDWARD VII.

(Twenty-Seventh Parliament—*cont.*)

Vol.	89	1	Edward VII.	1901
—	90 to 100	1	—	1901
—	101	1 & 2	—	1902
—	102 to 117	2	—	1902
—	118 to 125	3	—	1903

HIS MAJESTY'S PRINCIPAL OFFICERS OF STATE, ETC.

THE CABINET.

Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury and Lord Privy Seal——Rt. Hon. ARTHUR BALFOUR.
Lord President of the Council——His Grace the Duke of DEVONSHIRE, K.G.
Lord Chancellor——Rt. Hon. Earl of HALSBURY.
Secretaries of State——
  Foreign Affairs——Most Hon. the Marquess of LANSDOWNE, K.G.
  Home Department——Rt. Hon. A. AKERS DOUGLAS, M.P.
  Colonial——Rt. Hon. JOSEPH CHAMBERLAIN, M.P.
  War——Rt. Hon. W. ST. JOHN BRODRICK, M.P.
  India——Rt. Hon. Lord GEORGE HAMILTON, M.P.
Chancellor of the Exchequer——Rt. Hon. CHAS. T. RITCHIE, M.P.
First Lord of the Admiralty——Rt. Hon. the Earl of SELBORNE.
Lord Chancellor of Ireland——Rt. Hon. Lord ASHBOURNE.
President of the Board of Trade——Rt. Hon. GERALD W. BALFOUR, M.P.
Postmaster-General——Rt. Hon. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN, Esq., M.P.
Secretary for Scotland——Rt. Hon. Lord BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH.
President of the Local Government Board——Rt. Hon. WALTER H. LONG, M.P.
President of the Board of Agriculture——Rt. Hon. Earl of ONSLOW.
President of the Board of Education——The Most Noble the Marquess of LONDONDERRY.
Chief Secretary for Ireland——Rt. Hon. GEORGE WYNDHAM, M.P.

NOT IN THE CABINET.

Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasury——Sir A. ACLAND-HOOD, Bt., M.P.
Financial Secretary to the Treasury——Hon. ARTHUR D. ELLIOT, M.P.
Secretary of the Board of Education——Sir WILLIAM ANSON, Bt., M.P.
Secretary to the Admiralty——HUGH O. ARNOLD-FORSTER, Esq., M.P.

Lords of the Treasury——	H. T. ANSTRUTHER, Esq., M.P. Hon. AILWYN FELLOWES, M.P. H. W. FORSTER, Esq., M.P.
Lords of the Admiralty——	Admiral Lord W. T. KERR, K.C.B. Admiral Sir JOHN FISHER, G.C.B. Rear-Admiral W. H. MAY, M.V.O. Rear-Admiral JOHN DURNFORD, C.B., D.S.O.

Civil Lord of the Admiralty——E. G. PRETYMAN, Esq., M.P.
Parliamentary Secretary, Foreign Office——Lord CRANBORNE, M.P.
Parliamentary Secretary, Home Office——Hon. T. H. COCHRANE, M.P.
Parliamentary Secretary, Colonial Office——
Parliamentary Secretary, India Office——Rt. Hon. Earl PERCY, M.P.
Parliamentary Secretary, War Office——Rt. Hon. Earl of HARDWICKE.
Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Trade——A. BONAR LAW, Esq., M.P.
Parliamentary Secretary to the Local Government Board——J. GRANT LAWSON, Esq., M.P.
Financial Secretary, War Office——Lord STANLEY, M.P.
Attorney-General——Sir R. B. FINLAY, K.C., M.P.
Solicitor-General——Rt. Hon. Sir E. CARSON, K.C., M.P.
Lord Lieutenant of Ireland——Rt. Hon. Earl of DUDLEY.
Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster——Rt. Hon. Sir WM. WALROND, Bt., M.P.
First Commissioner of Works——Rt. Hon. Lord WINDSOR.

OTHER OFFICERS OF STATE

Judge Advocate-General——Rt. Hon. Sir F. H. JEUNE, K.C.B., President Probate, Divorce, and Admiralty Division.
Lord Chamberlain——Rt. Hon. Earl of CLARENDON.
Vice-Chamberlain——Sir A. ACLAND-HOOD, Bt., M.P.
Lord Steward——Rt. Hon. Earl of PEMBROKE AND MONTGOMERY, G.C.V.O.
Master of the Horse——His Grace the Duke of PORTLAND, K.G., G.C.V.O.
Paymaster-General——His Grace the Duke of MARLBOROUGH.
Comptroller of the Household——Viscount VALENTIA, M.P.
Treasurer of the Household——VICTOR C. W. CAVENDISH, Esq., M.P.
Master of the Buckhounds——Right Hon. Lord CHESHAM.
Captain Yeomen of the Guard—Rt. Hon. Earl WALDEGRAVE.

Lords-in-Waiting——
- Rt. Hon. Earl of KINTORE, G.C.M.G.
- Rt. Hon. Earl of DENBIGH.
- Rt. Hon. Lord CHURCHILL, K.C.V.O.
- Rt. Hon. Earl HOWE.
- Rt. Hon. Lord LAWRENCE.
- Rt. Hon. Lord BAGOT.
- Rt. Hon. Lord SUFFIELD, G.C.V.O., K.C.B.
- Rt. Hon. Lord KENYON.

SCOTLAND.

Secretary for Scotland and Keeper of the Great Seal——Rt. Hon. Lord BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH.
Lord Justice-General——Rt. Hon. J. B. BALFOUR.
Lord Advocate——Rt. Hon. A. GRAHAM MURRAY, K.C., M.P.
Lord Justice Clerk——Rt. Hon. Lord KINSBURGH, C.B.
Lord Clerk Register——His Grace the Duke of MONTROSE, K.T.
Lord High Commissioner——Rt. Hon. Earl of LEVEN AND MELVILLE.
Solicitor-General——CHARLES SCOTT DICKSON, Esq., K.C., M.P.

IRELAND.

Lord Lieutenant——Rt. Hon. Earl of DUDLEY.
Lord Chancellor——Rt. Hon. Lord ASHBOURNE.
Chief Secretary——Rt. Hon. GEORGE WYNDHAM, M.P.
Under Secretary——Sir ANTONY MCDONNELL.
Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction——President: The Rt. Hon. the CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND; Vice-President: Rt. Hon. HORACE PLUNKETT.
Attorney-General——Rt. Hon. J. ATKINSON, K.C., M.P.
Solicitor-General——J. H. M. CAMPBELL, Esq., K.C., M.P.

PRINCIPAL OFFICERS OF THE HOUSE OF LORDS.

Chairman of Committees——Rt. Hon. Earl of MORLEY.
Clerk of Parliaments——Sir HENRY J. L. GRAHAM, K.C.B.
Deputy Clerk of Parliaments (Clerk Assistant)——Hon. E. P. THESIGER, C.B.
Reading-Clerk and Clerk of Outdoor Committees——EDWARD HALL ALDERSON, Esq.
Counsel to the Chairman of Committees——ALBERT GRAY, Esq.
Chief Clerk and Clerk of Public Bills——A. HARRISON, Esq.
Senior Clerks——
- Peers' Printed Paper Office——C. L. ANSTRUTHER, Esq.
- Principal Clerk, Judicial Department, and Taxing Officer of Judicial Costs——J. F. SKENE, Esq.
- Clerk of the Journals——W. A. LEIGH, Esq.
- Principal Clerk of Private Committees——J. F. SYMONS JEUNE, Esq.

Other Clerks——W. H. HAMILTON GORDON, Esq.; Hon. A. MCDONNELL; A. H. ROBINSON, Esq. (Clerk of Private Bills); H. P. ST. JOHN, Esq.; V. M. BIDDULPH, Esq.; Hon. E. A. STONOR; H. J. F. BADELEY, Esq.; C. HEADLAM, Esq.; J. B. HOTHAM, Esq.; E. C. VIGORS, Esq.; A. TENNYSON, Esq.; and G. D. LUARD, Esq.
Accountant and Copyist——Mr. T. A. COURT.
Assistant Copyists——Mr. H. P. NORRIS and Mr. R. A. COURT.
Messengers——Messrs. A. A. WORFELL, C. E. CHIZLETT, A. M. STOLL, J. W. F. LOCKE, J. MCMILLAN, G. BENNETT, G. T. PHILIP.
Librarian——S. ARTHUR STRONG, Esq.
Assistant Librarian——A. H. M. BUTLER, Esq.
Attendant——Mr. W. WORFELL.
Examiners for Standing Orders——C. W. CAMPION, Esq.; J. F. SYMONS JEUNE, Esq.; Clerk——B. H. FELL, Esq.
Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod——Gen. Sir MICHAEL A. S. BIDDULPH, G.C.B.
Yeoman Usher——Captain T. D. BUTLER.
Serjeant-at-Arms——Lt.-Col. Rt. Hon. Sir FLEETWOOD I. EDWARDS, G.C.V.O., K.C.B.
Deputy Serjeant-at-Arms——S. HAND, Esq.
Resident Superintendent——J K. WILLIAMS, Esq.

PRINCIPAL OFFICERS OF THE HOUSE OF LORDS—(*Cont.*)

- Shorthand Writer——W. H. Gurney Salter, Esq.
- Principal Doorkeepers——Messrs. W. Chandler, E. Fox, F. Holman.
- First Class Assistants——Messrs. C. Walker, J. Hedley, J. Lane.
- Second Class Assistants——Messrs. B. Gallop, H. B. Strevens, G. W. Cross, W. Stopp.
- Third Class Assistants——Messrs. J. Woolacott, A. A. Edney, J. F. Baum.
- Messengers——Messrs. A. J. Solman, J. B. Forsyth, C. Chapman, W. Phillips, W. W. Meates.
- Superintendent of Refreshment Rooms——Mr. W. Casbon.
- Inspector of Police attending the House of Lords——Mr. T. Kendrick.
- Clerk of the Works, Houses of Parliament——Mr. C. J. Williams.
- Resident Engineer, Houses of Parliament——Mr. A. P. Patey.

PRINCIPAL OFFICERS OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

- Clerk of the House of Commons——Sir Courtney Peregrine Ilbert, K.C.S.I., C.I.E.
- Clerk-Assistant——Arthur W. Nicholson, Esq.
- Second Clerk-Assistant——T. L. Webster, Esq.
- Principal Clerks——
    - Public Bill Office, and Clerk of Fees——W. Gibbons, Esq.
    - Clerk of the Journals——W. H. Ley, Esq.
    - Committee Office——R. Dickinson, Esq.
    - Private Bill Office——J. H. W. Somerset, Esq.
- Senior Clerks——F. St. George Tupper, Esq.; H. C. Tower Esq.; C. V. Frere, Esq.; L. T. Le Marchant, Esq.; G. C. Giffard, Esq.; Sir E. H. Doyle, Bart.
- Assistant Clerks——S. L. Simeon, Esq.; Arthur I. Dasent, Esq.; E. C. Howe Browne, Esq.; Horace West, Esq.; Henry A. Ferguson-Davie, Esq.; Arthur H. Ellis, Esq.; Percy A. Bull, Esq.; F. R. Williams Wynn, Esq.; W. E. Grey, Esq.; F. C. Holland, Esq.; J. W. G. Bond, Esq.
- Junior Clerks——H. C. Dawkins, Esq.; R. P. Colomb, Esq.; B. H. Fell, Esq.; R. E. Childers, Esq.; J. Scott Porter, Esq.; F. C. Bramwell, Esq.; W. T. Legge, Esq.; C. R. Turner, Esq.; W. K. Gibbons, Esq.; A. E. A. W. Smyth, Esq.; K. J. C. Moorsom, Esq.; C. D. Robertson, Esq.; R. D. Radcliffe, Esq.
- Serjeant-at-Arms——H. D. Erskine, Esq.
- Deputy Serjeant——F. R. Gosset, Esq.
- Assistant Sergeant——W. H. Erskine, Esq.
- Chaplain to the House——Rev. Archdeacon Basil Wilberforce, D.D.
- Secretary to the Speaker——Edward Gully, Esq.
- Counsel to the Speaker——Hon. Sir E. Chandos Leigh, K.C., K.C.B.
- Trainbearer——Mr. J. French.
- Messenger——Mr. W. Murrell.
- Collectors of Fees on Private Bills——C. L. Lockton, Esq.
- Referee of Private Bills——Alfred Bonham Carter, Esq., C.B.
- Examiners of Private Bills——C. W. Campion, Esq.; J. F. Symons Jeune, Esq.
- Taxing Master——C. W. Campion, Esq.; Clerk——B. H. Fell, Esq.
- Vote Office——
    - Chief Clerk——H. A. M. Killick, Esq.
    - Assistant Clerks——Philip Smith, Esq.; H. Otway Mayne, Esq.
    - Messenger——Mr. John Edwards.
- Librarian——R. C. Walpole, Esq.; Assistant Librarian——Temple Francks, Esq., B.C.L.; Clerks in Library——Messrs. J. R. Crimp, Wm. Stewart; Messengers——Messrs. A. Firmin, W. Hague.
- Shorthand Writer——W. H. Gurney Salter, Esq.
- Printers——
    - Journals——G. E. Briscoe Eyre, Esq.
    - Votes——J. B. Nichols, Esq.
- Postmaster——Mr. Edmund W. Pike; Hall Keeper——Mr. J. Glynn.
- Office Keeper——Mr. W. Harvey.
- Office Clerk in Committee Office——Mr. T. Fielden Mitchell.
- Office Clerk in Journal Office——Mr. A. A. Taylor.
- Messengers——Messrs. J. J. Shelvey, C. Davie, W. Quantrill, H. Jones, G. D. Weller, J. Armstrong, J. Woodward, J. Ivory, G. Norman.
- Doorkeepers——Mr. W. Wilson and Mr. M. Inglefield.
- Office Messenger——Mr. C. J. H. Shearn.
- Messengers (1st Class)——Mr. H. Hambling, Mr. C. Woodcraft, Mr. R. Robertson, Mr. J. Hills, Mr. J. Sprague, Mr. A. Andrews, Mr. T. B. Spray, Mr. G. Tye, Mr. R. Hobby, Mr. G. Anstey, Mr. J. H. Day.
- Messengers (2nd Class)——Messrs. J. Henderson, G. Wainwright, J. Guyatt, R. Turtle, A. Haskell, A. C. Johnson, G. Clapperton, H. E. Linington.
- Superintendent of Members' Waiting Room——Mr. J. F. Henley; Assistant——Mr W. Broadbent; Porters——Messrs. J. Oram and T. Martin.
- Chief Inspector of Police attending the House of Commons——Mr. Scantlebury.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

TO

VOLUME CXXV.

EIGHTH VOLUME OF SESSION, 1903.

HOUSE OF COMMONS: WEDNESDAY, 8TH JULY, 1903.

The House met at Two of the Clock.

UNOPPOSED PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Page

Charing Cross, Euston, and Hampstead Railway Bill.—Lords' Amendments considered, and agreed to 1

Port Talbot Railway and Docks Bill [LORDS].—[Not amended], considered; to be read the third time 1

Birmingham District Tramways Bill [LORDS]; Bradford Corporation Bill [Lords]; Kip's Patent Bill [Lords].—Read a second time, and committed... 1

Jewish Colonisation Association Bill [LORDS] (BY ORDER).—Read the third time, and passed, without Amendment 1

Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 7) Bill.—Lords' Amendment considered, and agreed to 1

North-Western Electricity and Power-Gas Bill [LORDS].—Report (7th July) from the Select Committee on Standing Orders read.

Bill to be read a second time 2

Mersey Docks and Harbour Board Bill [LORDS].—Reported, with Amendments; Report to lie upon the Table 2

PETITIONS.

DETENTION OF POOR PERSONS (SCOTLAND) BILL.—Petition from South Knapdale, in favour; to lie upon the Table 2

ELECTRIC LIGHTING (LONDON) BILL.—Petition from Bermondsey, against; to lie upon the Table 2

LICENCES RENEWAL AND TRANSFER BILL.—Petition from Barnard Castle, against; to lie upon the Table... 2

LICENSING LAW (COMPENSATION FOR NON-RENEWAL) BILL.—Petition from Barnard Castle, against; to lie upon the Table 2

July 8.] Page

LICENSING (SCOTLAND) ACTS AMENDMENT BILL.—Petitions in favour: from Deer; Edinburgh; and Galashiels; to lie upon the Table 3

PUBLIC LIBRARIES.—Petition from Bury, for alteration of law; to lie upon the Table 3

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

CUSTOMS TARIFF (AUSTRIA-HUNGARY).—Copy presented, of translation of the proposed New General Customs Tariff for Austria-Hungary, with comparison, as far as possible, of the Rates of Customs Duty contained in the proposed Tariff with the rates at present in force on Imports into Austria-Hungary from the United Kingdom [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 3

GAS ORDERS CONFIRMATION (NO. 1) BILL [LORDS].—Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 7th July; *Mr. Bonar Law*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 244.] 3

GAS ORDERS CONFIRMATION (NO. 2) BILL [LORDS].—Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 7th July; *Mr. Bonar Law*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 245.] 3

GAS AND WATER ORDERS CONFIRMATION BILL [LORDS].—Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 7th July; *Mr. Bonar Law*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 246.]... 3

WATER ORDERS CONFIRMATION BILL [LORDS].—Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 7th July; *Mr. Bonar Law*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 247.] 3

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

VACCINATION EXEMPTION CERTIFICATES AT STRATFORD.—Question, Mr. Weir (Ross and Cromarty); Answer, Mr. Akers Douglas... 3

AMERICAN CUSTOMS LAW—EFFECTS ON EXPORT TRADE.—Question, Sir Howard Vincent (Sheffield, Central); Answer, Lord Cranborne 4

GRANTS TO STUDENTS IN UNIVERSITY HOSTELS.—Questions, Mr. Ernest Gray (West Ham, N.) and Sir John Gorst (Cambridge University); Answers, Sir William Anson 4

COUNTY COUNCILS AND VOLUNTARY SCHOOLS.—Question, Mr. Griffith Boscawen (Kent, Tunbridge); Answer, Sir William Anson 5

IMPERFECT VACCINATION AT LIVERPOOL.—Question, Mr. Weir; Answer, Mr. Walter Long 5

PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS AMENDMENT BILL—DATE OF INTRODUCTION.—Question, Sir Alfred Hickman (Wolverhampton, W.); Answer, Mr. Bonar Law ... 6

STATISTICAL ABSTRACT—DATE OF PUBLICATION.—Question, Sir Henry Fowler (Wolverhampton, E.); Answer, Mr. Bonar Law 7

EXPORTS TO FOREIGN COUNTRIES OF WOOLLEN AND COTTON GOODS AND CUTLERY IN 1872 AND 1902.—Question, Mr. Sydney Buxton (Tower Hamlets, Poplar); Answer, Mr. Bonar Law 7

IMPORTS OF PARCHMENT COFFEE HUSK.—Question, Mr. Gardner (Berkshire, Wokingham); Answer, Mr. Bonar Law 8

REDUCTION IN AMERICAN RAILWAY FREIGHT OF WHEAT DURING 1902.—Question, Mr. Hugh Smith (Northumberland, Tyneside); Answer, Mr. Bonar Law 8

GOVERNMENT STAMP ON PREPARED MEDICINE.—Questions, Sir John Leng (Dundee) and Mr. Shaw-Stewart (Renfrewshire, E.); Answers, Mr. Arthur Elliot 9

PRESERVATION OF RUINS OF ARDAGH CATHEDRAL.—Question, Mr. J. P. Farrell (Longford, N.); Answer, Mr. Arthur Elliot 10

ESTATES FOR SALE IN COUNTY LONGFORD.—Question, Mr. J. P. Farrell; Answer, Mr. Atkinson... 10

GORDON-BENNETT CUP RACE—DELAY IN TELEGRAPH MESSAGES.—Question, Mr. James O'Connor (Wicklow, W.); Answer, Mr. Austen Chamberlain ... 11

LOAN FUND LEGISLATION IN IRELAND.—Question, Mr. Dillon (Mayo, E.); Answer, Mr. Wyndham 11

PROCEEDINGS UNDER THE CRIMINAL LAW PROCEDURE ACT AT BORRISOLEIGH, CO. TIPPERARY.—Question, Mr. P. J. O'Brien (Tipperary, N.); Answer, Mr. Wyndham 12

ARMY PENSIONS—CASE OF JAMES GRIFFIN, LATE ROYAL GARRISON REGIMENT.—Question, Mr. Joyce (Limerick); Answer, Lord Stanley 13

IMPORTS OF CANADIAN CATTLE INTO UNITED STATES AND UNITED KINGDOM.—Question, Mr. Haldane (Haddingtonshire); Answer, Mr. J. Chamberlain. . 13

QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE.

THE NEW NAVAL BASE.—Question, Mr. Pirie (Aberdeen, N.); Answer, The Civil Lord of the Admiralty (Mr. Pretyman, Suffolk, Woodbridge) 14

NAVY SUMMER CRUISES.—Question, Mr. Weir (Ross and Cromarty); Answer, Mr. Pretyman 14

BOER PRISONERS IN CEYLON.—Question, Mr. Swift MacNeill (Donegal, S.); Answer, The Secretary of State for the Colonies (Mr. J. Chamberlain, Birmingham, W.) 15

LAND SETTLEMENT IN THE TRANSVAAL.—Question, Mr. Swift MacNeill; Answer, Mr. J. Chamberlain 15

METROPOLITAN DISTRICT RAILWAY—ELECTRIC TRACTION.—Question, Mr. Weir; Answer, The Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Trade (Mr. Bonar Law, Glasgow, Blackfriars) 16

COTTON TRUST.—Question, Mr. Field (Dublin, St. Patrick); Answer, Mr. Bonar Law 16

DESTRUCTION OF FISH AT BILLINGSGATE AND ABERDEEN.—Questions, Mr. Pirie; Answers, Mr. Bonar Law 17

BRITISH IMPORTS AND EXPORTS FOR LAST SEVENTY YEARS.—Question, Mr. Hoult (Cheshire, Wirrall); Answer, Mr. Bonar Law 17

TRADE STATISTICS.—Question, Mr. White Ridley (Stalybridge); Answer, Mr. Bonar Law 18

July 8.]

Page

FISCAL INQUIRY.—Questions, Mr. Gibson Bowles (Lynn Regis) and Mr. James Lowther (Kent, Thanet); Answers, The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr. Ritchie, Croydon) 19

THE FISCAL INQUIRY—COLONIAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO IMPERIAL DEFENCE.—Question, Mr. Macnamara (Camberwell, N.); Answer, The Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury (Mr. A. J. Balfour, Manchester, E.) ... 21

FISCAL INQUIRY AND BRITISH AGRICULTURE.—Question, Mr. Soares (Devonshire, Barnstaple); Answer, Mr. A. J. Balfour 21

FISCAL INQUIRY—PREFERENTIAL RATES ON RAILWAYS.—Question, Mr. Field; Answer, Mr. Bonar Law 22

CONFERENCES WITH COLONIAL PREMIERS.—Questions, Mr. Gibson Bowles and Mr. Edmund Robertson (Dundee); Answers, Mr. A. J. Balfour 22

INCOME TAX RETURNS.—Questions, Mr. Field and Mr. Flynn (Cork Co., N.); Answers, Mr. Ritchie 24

VACCINATION EXEMPTION CERTIFICATES.—Question, Mr. Weir; Answer, The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mr. Akers Douglas, Kent, St. Augustine's) 24

RAILWAY CATTLE TRANSIT—HUMANE CATTLE CARS.—Question, Mr. Field; Answer, Mr. Ailwyn Fellowes (Huntingdonshire, Ramsey)... 24

ROTTON ROW AMBULANCES.—Question, Mr. Claude Hay (Shoreditch, Hoxton); Answer, Mr. Victor Cavendish (Derbyshire, W.) 25

PORT OF NESS BREAKWATER AND PIER.—Question, Mr. Weir; Answer, The Solicitor-General for Scotland (Mr. Scott Dickson, Glasgow, Bridgeton) ... 26

VACCINATION IN SCOTLAND.—Question, Mr. Weir; Answer, Mr. Scott Dickson 26

CRIME IN COUNTY CLARE.—Question, Mr. William Redmond (Clare, E.); Answer, The Chief Secretary for Ireland (Mr. Wyndham, Dover)... ... 27

MAYO PIERS AND HARBOURS.—Question, Dr. Ambrose (Mayo, W.); Answer, Mr. Wyndham 27

LUNG GRAZING LANDS.—Question, Mr. Tully (Leitrim, S.); Answer, Mr. Wyndham 27

GRANARD UNION NURSES.—Question, Mr. T. M. Healy (Louth, N.); Answer, Mr. Wyndham 28

BOYLE WATERWORKS LOAN.—Questions, Mr. Tully and Mr. Kilbride (Kildare, S.); Answers, The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr. Arthur Elliot, Durham) 28

IRISH INCOME TAX APPEALS.—Question, Mr. Field; Answer, Mr. Ritchie ... 29

IRISH MOTOR-CAR RACE—BREAKDOWN OF TELEGRAPHIC ARRANGEMENTS.—Question, Mr. J. P. Farrell (Longford, N.); Answer, The Postmaster-General (Mr. Austen Chamberlain, Worcestershire, E.) 29

IRISH TELEGRAPHIC DELAYS.—Question, Mr. J. P. Farrell; Answer, Mr. Austen Chamberlain 30

July 8.]

Page

IRISH GOLD ORNAMENTS—GIFT TO THE IRISH ACADEMY.—Questions, Sir Thomas Esmonde (Wexford, N.), Mr. William Redmond, and Mr. Whitley (Halifax); Answers, Mr. A. J. Balfour 30

CONTEMPT OF COURT.—Questions, Mr. O'Dowd (Sligo, S.) and Mr. Field; Answers, Mr. A. J. Balfour 32

TERMINABLE LEASEHOLDS.—Questions, Mr. Field and Mr. Flavin (Kerry, N.); Answers, Mr. A. J. Balfour 32

HOUSING OF THE WORKING CLASSES.—Question, Dr. Macnamara; Answer, Mr. A. J. Balfour 33

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.—Questions, Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman (Stirling Burghs), Mr. Lambert (Devonshire, South Molton), and Mr. John Redmond (Waterford); Answers, Mr. A. J. Balfour 33

Aged Pensioners Bill.—Ordered, That the Old Age Pensions (Friendly Societies) Bill of Session 1898; the Old Age Provident Pensions Bill of Session 1900; the Old Age Pensions (No. 3) Bill; Old Age Pensions (No. 4) Bill; and Old Age Pensions (No. 5) Bill of Session 1901; and the Old Age Pensions Bill; Aged Pensioners (No. 2) Bill; and Cottage Homes Bill of the present session, be referred to the Select Committee on the Aged Pensioners Bill.—(*Mr. Grant Lawson.*) 35

Irish Land Bill.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[MR. J. W. LOWTHER (Cumberland, Penrith) in the Chair.]

Clause 82:—

Amendment proposed—

"In page 37, line 15, to leave out the words 'other than domestic or menial servant.'"—(*Mr. Tully.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the clause."

Mr. Tully (*Leitrim, S.*) 35

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Mr. Tully 35

Amendment proposed—

"In page 37, line 15, at end, to insert the words 'town under the Towns Improvement (Ireland) Act, 1854, or a.' In page 37, line 16, after the words 'rural' to insert the words 'or urban.' In page 37, line 16, after the word 'district,' to insert the word 'or in an urban district with a population of less than 5,000 at the last census, and.'"—(*Mr. Tully.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

The Chief Secretary for Ireland (*Mr. Wyndham, Dover*) 36

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Mr. O'Shee (*Waterford, W.*) 37

Amendment proposed—

"In page 37, line 16, to leave out from the words 'district' to end of clause."—(*Mr. O'Shee.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the clause."

The Attorney-General for Ireland (*Mr. Atkinson, Londonderry, N.*) ... 37
Mr. O'Shee ... 37
Mr. Charles Craig (*Antrim, S.*) ... 38
Mr. Clancy (*Dublin County, N.*) ... 39
Colonel Saunderson (*Armagh, N.*) ... 39
Mr. William O'Brien (*Cork*) ... 39
Mr. Crean (*Cork Co., S.E.*) ... 40
Mr. Sheehan (*Cork Co., Mid*) ... 40
Mr. Flynn (*Cork Co., N.*) ... 41
Mr. Dillon ... 41
Mr. Kilbride (*Kildare, S.*) ... 42
Mr. Cullinan (*Tipperary, S.*) ... 42
Mr. Wyndham ... 42
Mr. John Redmond (*Waterford*) ... 43
Mr Wyndham ... 44
Mr. J. P. Farrell (*Longford, N.*) ... 44
Mr. Murphy (*Kerry, E.*) ... 45
Mr. Flavin (*Kerry, N.*) ... 46
Mr. Gordon (*Londonderry, S.*) ... 46
Mr. O'Shee ... 47

Question put and agreed to.

Mr. Tully ... 48
Mr. O'Shee ... 48

Clause 82 agreed to.

Clause 83 agreed to.

Clause 84 agreed to.

Clause 85 :—

Amendment proposed—

"In page 38, line 23, at end, to add the words 'the expression "the Public Works Act," means the Drainage and Navigation (Ireland) Acts, 1842 to 1857; the Drainage and Improvement (Ireland) Acts, 1862 to 1892; the Fisheries (Ireland) Act, 1846; The Landed Property and Improvement (Ireland) Act, 1847, and any Act extending, amending, or incorporating the said Acts or any of them or any part thereof; and the Drainage Maintenance Act, 1866.'"—(*Mr. Wyndham.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 38, line 23, at end, to insert the words, '(2) the expression "superior interest," in the Land Purchase Acts, shall include any reversion or estate expectant on the determination of an estate tail or a base fee, whether such reversion or estate is or is not vested in the Crown.'"—(*Mr. Wyndham.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 85, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 86 to 89 agreed to.

NEW CLAUSES.

New clause (Sanction of advances in cases not within the zones.)

"In page 3, after Clause 4, to insert the following clause:—'In the case of the sale of an estate where an application for an advance, to which the provisions of Sub-section 1 of Section 1 of this Act do not apply, is made, the Land Commission may, subject to the limitations in the Land Purchase Acts, advance the whole or part of the purchase money if they are satisfied with the security, and are of opinion that, having regard to all the circumstances of the case, the agreed price is equitable.'"—(*Mr. Wyndham.*)

Brought up, and read the first time.

Motion made, and Question, "That the clause be read a second time," put, and agreed to.

Clause added to the Bill.

New clause (Reservation of Ancient Monuments).

"In page 8, after Clause 2, to insert the following clause:—'(1) Where any land, which is vested under the Land Purchase Acts in a purchaser, contains any ancient monument which, in the opinion of the Land Commisison, is a matter of public interest by reason of the historic, traditional, or artistic interest attaching thereto, they may, with the consent of the Commissioners of Public Works in Ireland, by order declare that the property in the monument shall not pass to the purchaser, and make an order vesting the monument in those Commissioners. (2) Where any such order is made, the provisions of the Ancient Monuments Protection Act, 1882, with respect to the maintenance of, and access, and penalties for injury to, ancient monuments, shall apply as if the monument were a monument under the guardianship of those Commissioners in pursuance of that Act. (3) In this section the expression "ancient monument" means any ancient or mediæval structure, erection, or monument, or any remains thereof.'"—(*Mr. Wyndham.*)

Brought up, and read the first time.

Motion made, and Question, "That the clause be read a second time," put, and agreed to.

Clause added to the Bill.

Mr. Wyndham 50

New clause (Trinity College, Dublin).

"In page 19, after Clause 35, to insert the following clause:—(1) 'There shall be paid to the public trustee out of the Ireland Development Grant the sum of £5,000 per annum for the account of Trinity College, Dublin. (2) The said sum shall be applied by the public trustee in indemnifying the college against any loss of income arising from the redemption under the Land Purchase Acts of any superior interest owned by the college, that is to say, the difference between the annual income payable in respect of the superior interest and the annual income of the investment in which the redemption money of the superior interest is invested. (3) Any portion of the said sum of £5,000 which in any year is not required to make good loss of income to the college, and any accrued interest thereon, shall be invested by the public trustee, and may be applied in any subsequent

July 8.] *Page*

year to make good future loss. (4) The investment of the redemption money of any superior interest owned by the college shall be made in accordance with the advice of the public trustee.'"—(*Mr. Wyndham.*)

Brought up, and read the first time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Clause be read a second time."

Mr. John Redmond 53
Mr. T. M. Healy 57
Mr. T. W. Russell (Tyrone, S.) 58
Mr. Dillon 59
Mr. Swift MacNeill (Donegal, S.)... 63
The Solicitor-General for Ireland (Mr. James Campbell, Dublin University) 64
Mr. T. P. O'Connor (Liverpool, Scotland)... 70
Mr. Wyndham 73
Mr. Clancy... 76
Mr. Butcher 78
Colonel Nolan (Galway, N.) 79
Mr. Boland (Kerry, S.) 80
Mr. Power (Waterford, E.) 80
Mr. William Redmond (Clare, E.) 81
Mr. Wyndham 84
Mr. Swift MacNeill 84

Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 197 ; Noes, 134. (Division List No. 140.)

Mr. T. W. Russell 87

Clause added to the Bill.

New clause (Provision for sale at a loss of congested estates).

"In page 20, after Clause 39, to insert the following clause :—'(1) On the completion of the re-sale of any congested estate purchased by the Land Commission an account shall be prepared showing the profit or loss in connection with the purchase and re-sale of the whole of the congested estates purchased and re-sold up to date. (2) If the account shows on the whole of the transactions a net loss, that is to say, an excess in the amounts paid by the Land Commission over the capital sums realised by the Land Commission for re-sales, interest at the rate of two and three-quarters per cent. and sinking fund at the rate of ten shillings per cent. on the amount of the said net loss, within a limit of ten per cent. of the aggregate sums realised by the re-sale of the estates, shall, in accordance with rules made by the Treasury, be paid as part of the expenses of the Land Commission, and credited to the Irish Land Purchase Fund, until the amount of the loss is discharged. (3) In calculating the profit and loss on the purchase and re-sale of congested estates, no account shall be taken of any money expended by the Land Commission for the benefit or improvement of the estates nor of any increase of price obtained by them in consequence of such expenditure.'"—(*Mr. Wyndham.*)

Brought up, and read the first time.

Motion made, and Question, "That the clause be read a second time," put, and agreed to.

Clause added to the Bill.

July 8.] *Page*

New clause (Resumption of holdings by Congested Districts Board).

"In page 34, after Clause 75, to insert the following clause :—'The resumption of a holding during the continuance of a statutory term by the Congested Districts Board may be authorised under Sub-section 6 and Section 5 of the Act of 1881 for the purposes of migration or the enlargement of holdings in addition to the purposes specified in that sub-section.' "—(*Mr. Wyndham.*)

Brought up, and read the first time.

Motion made, and Question, "That the clause be read a second time," put, and agreed to.

Clause added to the Bill.

New clause (Under Secretary to be member of Board).

"In page 34, after Clause 75, to insert the following clause :—'The Under Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant shall be ex-officio a member of the Congested Districts Board.' "—(*Mr. Wyndham.*)

Brought up, and read the first time.

Motion made, and Question, "That the clause be read a second time," put, and agreed to.

Clause added to the Bill.

New clause (Scheme under Labourers' Acts to be framed by Land Commission).

"In page 37, after Clause 84, to insert the following clause :—'(1) Where the Land Commission have purchased an estate, or where application is made to the Commission to sanction advances for the purchase of holdings comprised in an estate, they shall make inquiry as to whether accommodation is needed for labourers on the estate, and if of opinion that such accommodation is needed they shall frame a scheme providing therefor. (2) Every such scheme shall be forwarded to the Local Government Board for Ireland and the Council of the rural district in which the land comprised in the scheme is situate, and shall be deemed a representation made to the Council under the Labourers' (Ireland) Acts, 1883 to 1896, and those Acts shall apply accordingly.' "—(*Mr. Wyndham.*)

Brought up, and read the first time.

Motion made, and Question, "That the clause be read a second time," put, and agreed to.

Sir John Colomb (*Great Yarmouth*) 90

Amendment proposed—

"In line 1, to leave out from the word 'or' to the word 'estate' in line 3."—(*Sir John Colomb.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the clause."

Mr. Atkinson 91
Mr. T. M. Healy 91
Mr. Atkinson 91
Mr. T. W. Russell 92

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

And, it being half-past Seven of the clock, the Chairman left the Chair to make his Report to the House.

Committee report Progress ; to sit again this evening.

EVENING SITTING.

Irish Land Bill.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. J. W. LOTWHER (Cumberland, Penrith) in the Chair.]

Mr. O'Shee 92

Amendment proposed—

"In line 4, after the word 'whether' to insert the word 'house, after the word 'accommodation' to insert the words 'or land for allotment,' and in line 5, after the word 'accommodation,' to insert the words 'or land.'"—(*Mr. O'Shee.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

Mr. Atkinson 94
Mr. O'Shee 94
Mr. Wyndham 94

Question put, and negatived.

Amendment proposed—

"To add at the end of the proposed new clause the following—'When the Council of the rural district approve of any such scheme the Local Government Board shall sanction the same without inquiry.'"—(*Mr. Cullinan.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there added."

Mr. Atkinson 95

Question put, and negatived.

New clause :—

"In page 38, after Clause 85, to insert the following clause :—'Nothing in this Act shall affect (*a*) any sporting rights, mineral rights, or water rights which are not in the possession or enjoyment of the vendor at the time of sale ; (*b*) any mine or quarry which is being worked or developed by the vendor at the time of sale ; or (*c*) any right to water power in actual use by the vendor at the time of sale.'"—(*Mr. Wyndham.*)

Brought up, and read the first time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the clause be read a second time."

Sir John Colomb 96
Mr. Wyndham 97

Question put, and agreed to.

Clause added to the Bill.

uly 8.] Page

New clause (Erection of new cottages).

"In page 37, after Clause 84, to insert the following clause, 'Where there is a labourer in occupation of a cottage which is declared on inspection by the health officer both unhealthy and possessing insufficient accommodation, and which is necessary for the proper working of the farm upon which it is built, the District Council, on receiving the health officer's report, shall direct the erection of a new cottage, and shall have power to purchase an acre of ground surrounding the cottage, for the purposes of the labourer.'"—(*Colonel Nolan.*)

Brought up, and read the first time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the clause be read a second time."

Motion, by leave, withdrawn.

New clause (Removal of restraints on alienation).

"For the purpose of a Sale under the Land Purchase Acts, as defined by this Act, whether to the Land Commission or otherwise, all covenants, agreements, and conditions in any lease or fee farm grant prohibiting, restraining, or tending to restrain the alienation of any land held thereunder, shall be deemed to be wholly void and inoperative, and so much of Section 33 of the Act of 1870 and Section 29 of the Land Act of 1881 as requires the waiver or determination of such prohibition is hereby repealed."—(*Mr. Hayden.*)

Brought up, and read the first time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Clause be read a second time."

Mr. Atkinson 99

Question put, and agreed to.

Clause added to the Bill.

Mr. O'Kelly (Mayo, N.) 99

New clause (Definition of Congested Districts).

"The whole of each of the counties of Galway, Mayo, Sligo, Roscommon, Leitrim, Cork, Kerry, Limerick, Clare, and Donegal shall be a congested districts county within the meaning and for the purposes of the Congested Districts Board (Ireland) Acts as amended by this Act."—(*Mr. O'Kelly.*)

Brought up, and read the first time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the clause be read a second time."

Mr. Dillon 104
Mr. Wyndham 104

Motion, by leave, withdrawn.

New clause (Mill holdings).

"Where a mill or other non-agricultural ingredient of a holding is held under the same tenancy as agricultural land, the tenant may apply to fix a fair rent on the agricultural portion of the holding, and the Court shall direct that the non-agricultural portion of the holding shall thenceforth be treated as a separate holding, and shall be held at such

July 8.] *Page*

rent during the continuance of the tenancy as the Court may determine to be the proper proportion of the rent reserved by the demise, and the Court may fix a fair rent for the remainder of the holding, and the Land Tax Acts shall apply thereto as if it was a separate holding. This section shall apply irrespective of the nature of the tenure or demise under which the tenancy has been created."—(*Mr. Tully.*)

Brought up, and read the first time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the clause be read a second time."

Mr. Wyndham 105

Question put, and negatived.

Mr. Lonsdale 105

New Clause (Ulster Custom).

"When a tenant has agreed for the sale of a holding to which the Ulster Tenant Right Custom, within the meaning of Section 1 of the Landlord and Tenant (Ireland) Act of 1870, applies, and such sale purports to be made under the Custom, but the landlord, in breach thereof, refuses to accept the purchaser as tenant, any party interested in such agreement may apply to the Land Commission Court, who shall have jurisdiction, subject to the prescribed rules, to decide upon the reasonableness or otherwise of the landlord's objection, and, if it thinks fit, may make an order declaring the purchaser, notwithstanding such refusal, to be entitled to all the interests of the tenant in such holding; and the Land Commission shall have all such jurisdiction and authority to make a decree for enforcing the rights of the purchaser in such case, including the payment of costs, as are vested in the Chancery Division of the High Court of Justice in Ireland relating to the specific performance of contracts, subject to the like appeal as in the case of other orders made by the Land Commission."—(*Mr. Lonsdale.*)

Brought up, and read the first time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the clause be read a second time."

Mr. T. W. Russell 108
Mr. Atkinson 109
Mr. Dillon 110
Mr. Hemphill (Tyrone, N.) 110
Mr. Wyndham 110
Mr. John Redmond 111
Mr. T. W. Russell 111

Question put, and negatived.

New clause (Tenure of legal assistant Commissioners).

"Each legal assistant Commissioner on the permanent staff shall be paid out of moneys provided by Parliament, and shall hold his office by the same tenure as a Commissioner, other than the Judicial Commissioner, as provided by Section 28 of the Purchase of Land (Ireland) Act, 1891."—(*Mr. Hemphill.*)

Brought up, and read the first time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the clause be read a second time."

uly 8.] Page

Mr. Wyndham 112

Motion, by leave, withdrawn.

New clause (Extension of Section 40 of the Act of 1896 to certain estates).

"Where a judgment or order for sale of an estate in Ireland which is in the main agricultural or pastoral, or partly agricultural and partly pastoral, has been or shall be made by the High Court of Justice in England or Ireland, or by the Court of Session in Scotland, the Judge making such judgment or order shall be deemed to be the landlord of the tenants upon said estates for the purpose of sales to the Estate Commissioners under the provisions of this Act, or to said tenants under the provisions of the Land Purchase Acts as amended by this Act. And if a receiver has been appointed over the estate, or the estate is so circumstanced that it would, independently of this Act, be sold without the consent of the owner as to price, the provisions of Section 40 of the Act of 1896 shall have effect in regard to the estate in the same manner, and all proceedings under said Section 40 in regard to the estate shall be had and taken in the Court of the Land Judge as if an absolute order for the sale of the estate had been made under the Landed Estates Court (Ireland) Act, 1858."—(*Mr. William Redmond.*)

Brought up, and read the first time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the clause be read a second time."

Motion, by leave, withdrawn.

New clauses (Labourers representation, Repeal and Interpretation).

"In page 37, after Clause 84, to insert the following clauses:—'Where it appears to the Local Government Board that the labourers are not sufficiently represented on any Rural District Council in any county, the Local Government Board may nominate any number of persons not exceeding three to act with the rural sanitary authority for the purposes of carrying out the Labourers' (Ireland) Acts. And such person or persons shall be appointed for such term as the Local Government Board may think fit, not exceeding three years, and shall have all the powers of the elected members of the rural sanitary authority. Provided, however, that the Local Government Board shall have power at any time to remove any such person or persons without filling up the vacancy caused by such removal. Section 3 of the Labourers' (Ireland) Act, 1891, is hereby repealed. A representation under the Labourers' (Ireland) Acts shall mean a representation signed by not less than six persons, each one of whom must either be rated for the relief of the poor within the sanitary district or be included in the definition of an agricultural labourer contained in this Act.'"—(*Mr. T. L. Corbett.*)

Brought up, and read the first time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the clauses be read a second time," put, and agreed to.

Mr. Lonsdale 114

New clause (Trinity College and Church perpetuity leases).

"Holders of land under ecclesiastical perpetuity leases and Trinity College leases may apply to the Land Commission to have their rents reduced proportionately to the reductions of rent granted to their

tenants; and the Land Commission shall reduce such rents accordingly, and shall, in the case of any holding subject to a judicial rent fixed or agreed to before the passing of the Act of 1896, make a further reduction of 10 per cent. on the rent payable for such holding."—(*Mr. Lonsdale.*)

Brought up, and read the first time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the clause be read a second time."

Mr. Wyndham 114

Question put, and negatived.

New clause (Compulsory acquisition of land).

"Where any land or easement sold under the provisions of the Land Purchase Acts is required by any local authority under any Act enabling such authority compulsorily to acquire same, no appeal shall lie from any order of the Local Government Board sanctioning the acquisition of such land under the Labourers' (Ireland) Acts, the Public Health (Ireland) Acts, or the Local Government (Ireland) Acts, and the decision of the Judge of Assize under Section 10, Sub-section 3 (d) of the Local Government (Ireland) Act, 1898, shall be final except when the order therein referred to is refused."—(*Mr. Tully.*)

Brought up, and read the first time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the clause be read a second time."

Mr. Wyndham 115

Motion, by leave, withdrawn.

New clause (Covenants against tillage).

"Where by reason of any covenant expressed or implied the tenant of a holding (other than demesne lands) is restricted from tilling or meadowing the whole or any portion thereof, such covenant is hereby declared void and of no effect, and the tenant of every such holding shall be entitled to any advance which under Section 1 of this Act may be made to any other occupier."—(*Mr. Tully.*)

Brought up, and read the first time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the clause be read a second time."

Mr. Wyndham 115
Sir John Rolleston 116

New clause (Expenses of negotiation).

"In page 22, after Clause 43, to insert the following clause:—'After making or providing for the prescribed payments to vendors selling direct to their tenants, there shall, in respect of any such sale, be paid out of the Land Purchase Aid Fund to the Estates Commissioners, a sum not exceeding three per cent. on the purchase money of the estate, which sum or such less sum as may seem reasonable, having regard to all the circumstances of the case, shall be paid by them to the land agent negotiating the sale of such estate.'"—(*Sir John Rolleston.*)

Brought up, and read the first time.

July 8.] *Page*

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the clause be read a second time."

Mr. Wyndham 117

Question put, and negatived.

THE SCHEDULES.

Amendment proposed—

"In Schedule 1, page 39, to leave out lines 3 to 14 inclusive, and insert the words 'Twelve per cent. on amount of purchase money advanced under Land Purchase Acts.'"—(*Mr. Wyndham.*)

Mr. Wyndham 118

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the schedule."

Mr. Dillon 118
Mr. Whitley (Halifax) 119
Mr. Wyndham 119
Mr. T. P. O'Connor 120

Question put, and negatived.

Question, "That those words be there inserted," put, and agreed to.

Schedule, as amended, agreed to.

Second schedule agreed to.

Bill reported; as amended, to be considered upon Monday next, and to be printed. [Bill 269.]

Metropolitan Streets Bill.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. J. W. LOWTHER (Cumberland, Penrith) in the Chair.]

Mr. Caldwell (Lanarkshire, Mid) 120
Mr. Lough (Islington, W.)... 123
The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mr. Akers Douglas, Kent, St. Augustine's) 123
Mr. Whitley (Halifax) 124

And, it being Midnight, the Chairman left the Chair to make his Report to the House.

Committee report Progress; to sit again to-morrow.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.

Sir A. Acland-Hood (Somersetshire, Wellington) 124

Adjourned at five minutes after Twelve o'clock.

HOUSE OF LORDS: THURSDAY, 9TH JULY, 1903.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

The LORD CHANCELLOR acquainted the House that the Clerk of the Parliaments had laid upon the Table the Certificate from the Examiners that the further Standing orders applicable to the following Bill have been complied with :—Gateshead Corporation.

And also the Certificate that the further Standing Orders applicable to the following Bill have not been complied with :—Ulster and Connaught Light Railways.

The same were ordered to lie on the Table 125

London County Council (Tramways and Improvements) Bill.—A witness ordered to attend the Select Committee 125

Hastings Tramways (Extensions) Bill [H.L.].—Commons' Amendments considered, and agreed to 125

London County Council (General Powers) Bill.—Reported from the Select Committee, with Amendments... 125

Baker Street and Waterloo Railway (Transfer) Bill.—Reported, with Amendments 125

Brighton Corporation Bill [H.L.].—The King's consent signified; and Bill reported from the Select Committee, with Amendments 125

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 5) Bill.—Leave given to the Select Committee to adjourn over to-morrow, and not to sit till twelve o'clock on Monday next 125

North Metropolitan Electric Power Supply Bill [H.L.].—Read 2ª ... 125

Erith Tramways and Improvement Bill.—Moved, That the Order made on the 16th day of March last, "That no Private Bill brought from the House of Commons shall be read a second time after the 18th day of June next," be dispensed with, and that the Bill be now read 2ª; agreed to; Bill read 2ª accordingly, and committed: The Committee to be proposed by the Committee of Selection 125

Jewish Colonisation Association Bill [H.L.].—Returned from the Commons agreed to 126

Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 7) Bill.—Returned from the Commons, with the Amendment agreed to 126

Hampton Court Gas Bill; Charing Cross, Euston, and Hampstead Railway Bill.—Returned from the Commons, with the Amendments agreed to ... 126

Aberdeen Corporation Tramways Order Confirmation Bill [H.L.] **(No. 161).**—A Bill to confirm a Provisional Order relating to Aberdeen Corporation Tramways; and Perth Corporation (Tramways) Order Confirmation Bill [H.L.] No. 162. A Bill to confirm a Provisional Order relating to Perth Corporation (Tramways), were presented by the Lord Balfour; read 1ª; to be printed; and (pursuant to the Private Legislation Procedure (Scotland) Act, 1899, Section 7), deemed to have been read 2ª; and reported from the Committee 126

July 9.] *Page*

Local Government Provisional Order (No. 16) Bill.—Amendments reported (according to Order), and Bill to be read 3^a to-morrow 126

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 9) Bill.—Committee of the Whole House (which stands appointed for this day) put off to Tuesday next 126

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 17) Bill; Local Government Provisional Order (No. 18) Bill.—House in Committee (according to Order); Bills reported without Amendment; Standing Committee negatived; and Bills to be read 3^a to-morrow 126

Pier and Harbour Provisional Orders (No. 2) Bill; Pier and Harbour Provisional Orders (No. 3) Bill; Pier and Harbour Provisional Orders (No. 4) Bill; Pier and Harbour Provisional Orders (No. 5) Bill; Pier and Harbour Provisional Orders (No. 6) Bill.—Moved, That the Order made on the 16th day of March last, "That no Provisional Order Confirmation Bill brought from the House of Commons shall be read a second time after Thursday, the 18th day of June next," be dispensed with, and that the Bills be now read 2^a; agreed to; Bills read 2^a accordingly, and committed to a Committee of the Whole House to-morrow 126

London County Council (Tramways and Improvements) Bill.—The order made on the 23rd day of June last, appointing certain Lords the Select Committee to consider the Bill, discharged 127

London County Council (Tramways and Improvements) Bill; Metropolitan Police Provisional Order Bill; London United Tramways Bill; Harrow Road and Paddington Tramways Bill; South Shields Corporation Bill; Dublin, Wicklow, and Wexford Railway Bill; Ebbw Vale Water and Improvement Bill; Western Valleys (Monmouthshire) Sewerage Board Bill.—Report from the Committee of Selection, That the following Lords be proposed to the House to form the Select Committee for the consideration of the said Bills—viz.,

E. Waldegrave,
E. Powis,
L. Kilmaine,
L. Harris (chairman),
L. Lyveden.

Agreed to; and the said Lords appointed accordingly: The Committee to meet on Monday next, at Twelve o'clock; and all petitions referred to the Committee, with leave to the petitioners praying to be heard by counsel against the Bills to be heard as desired, as also counsel for the Bills ... 127

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

TREATY SERIES No. 10 (1903).—Commercial Convention between the United Kingdom and Persia; signed at Tehran, 9th February, 1903 (ratifications exchanged at Tehran, 27th May, 1903); signed also in the Persian text ... 127

TRADE REPORTS.

ANNUAL SERIES—

No. 3020. Italy.
No. 3021. France (Pondicherry and Karikal).
No. 3022. Italy (Central Italy).
No. 3023. China (Foochow).
No. 3024. Portugal (Beira) 127

July 9.] *Page*

MISCELLANEOUS SERIES—

No. 594. Germany (agricultural instruction in Germany and the development of German agriculture and agricultural industries)... 128

FISHERIES (SCOTLAND).—Report of inquiry as to herring fishery in the Firth of Clyde, etc. 128

ARMY.—Letter from General Officer Commanding the Forces in South Africa transmitting the proceedings of a Board of Officers assembled to report upon certain supplies of "meat and vegetable" rations at Pretoria considered to be unfit for issue 128

PATRIOTIC FUND.—Forty-first Report of the Royal Commissioners 128

CUSTOMS (TARIFF).—Translation of the Proposed New General Customs Tariff for Austria-Hungary, with comparison, as far as possible, of the rates of Customs duty contained in the proposed tariff with the rates at present in force on imports into Austria-Hungary from the United Kingdom.

Presented (by Command) and ordered to lie on the Table 128

CERTIFIED INEBRIATE REFORMATORIES (REGULATIONS FOR MANAGEMENT).—Regulations, made with the approval of the Secretary of State for the Home Department, for the management and discipline of the certified inebriate reformatories at Lewes and Chesterfield; Brentry and Horfield.

Laid before the House (pursuant to Act) and ordered to lie on the Table... 128

Board of Agriculture and Fisheries Bill [H.L.].—Read 3^a (according to Order), and passed and sent to the Commons 128

Public Offices (Dublin) Bill.—Brought from the Commons. Read 1^a; to be printed; and referred to the Examiners. (No. 163.) 128

Pistols Bill—[SECOND READING].—Order of the day for the Second Reading read.

The Earl of Donoughmore 129

Moved, That the Bill be now read 2^a.—(*The Earl of Donoughmore.*)

Lord Belper 131

On Question, read 2^a (according to Order), and committed to a Committee of the Whole House to-morrow.

Local Government (Transfer of Powers) Bill.—On the Order to receive the Report of Amendments,

The Marquess of Ripon 131
Lord Kenyon 132
The Secretary for Scotland (*Lord Balfour of Burleigh*) 132

Amendments reported (according to Order), and Bill to be read 3^a To-morrow.

Lunacy Acts (Amendment) London Bill [H.L.].—On the Order to go into Committee on this Bill,

Lord Belper 133

Bill reported without Amendment; and re-committed to the Standing Committee.

House adjourned at ten minutes before Five o'clock, till To-morrow, a quarter past Four o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS: THURSDAY, 9TH JULY, 1903.

The House met at Two of the Clock.

THE CHAIRMAN OF WAYS AND MEANS.—The Clerk at the Table informed the House of the unavoidable absence of the Chairman of Ways and Means ... 133

UNOPPOSED PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Nelson Corporation Bill; West Cumberland Electric Tramways Bill.—Lords' Amendments considered, and agreed to 133

Fishguard and Rosslare Railways and Harbours Bill (BY ORDER).—Lords' Amendments considered, and agreed to 133

Hexham Gas Bill [LORDS]; Nantwich Urban District Council Bill [Lords]; Sheffield and South Yorkshire Navigation Bill [Lords]; Torquay Corporation Water Bill [Lords].—Read the third time, and passed, with Amendments 133

STANDING ORDERS.—Resolutions reported from the Select Committee.

1. "That, in the case of the Manchester Corporation Bill [Lords], the Standing Orders ought to be dispensed with:—That the parties be permitted to proceed with their Bill."

2. "That, in the case of the Gosport and Fareham Tramways Bill [Lords], the Standing Orders ought to be dispensed with:—That the parties be permitted to proceed with their Bill."

3. "That, in the case of the Bangor Corporation Bill [Lords], the Standing Orders ought to be dispensed with:—That the parties be permitted to proceed with their Bill."

4. "That, in the case of the South-Eastern, and London, Chatham, and Dover Railways Bill [Lords], the Standing Orders ought to be dispensed with:—That the parties be permitted to proceed with their Bill, provided that Clause 30 and the Fourth Schedule be struck out of the Bill:—That the Committee on the Bill do report how far such Order has been complied with."

Resolutions agreed to 134

Manchester Corporation Bill [LORDS].—Report [this day] from the Select Committee on Standing Orders read.

Bill to be read a second time 134

Gosport and Fareham Tramways Bill [LORDS].—Report [this day] from the Select Committee on Standing Orders read.

Bill to be read a second time 134

Manchester Southern Tramways Bill [LORDS].—Reported, with Amendments; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed 134

July 9.] *Page*

RAILWAY BILLS (GROUP 12).—Mr. Ashton reported from the Committee on Group 12 of Railway Bills; That the Committee had adjourned till Monday next, at Twelve of the clock, there being no business ready.
Report to lie upon the Table 134

Tramway Orders Confirmation (No. 2) Bill [LORDS].—Copy ordered, "of Memorandum stating the nature of the Proposals contained in the Provisional Orders included in the Tramways Orders Confirmation (No. 2) Bill [Lords]."—(*Mr. Bonar Law.*) 134

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.

That they have agreed to—Guinea Postal Orders Bill; Hamilton Burgh Provisional Order Bill; Broughty Ferry Gas Provisional Order Bill, without Amendment.

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 14) Bill; Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 10) Bill, with Amendments.

That they have passed a Bill, intituled, "An Act to make further provisions for the foundation of a Dean and Chapter of Newcastle; and for other purposes connected therewith." [Newcastle Chapter (Amendment) Bill (Lords).]

Also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders made by the Board of Trade under the Tramways Act, 1870, relating to Burton-upon-Trent Corporation Tramways, Bury Corporation Tramways, Cardiff Corporation Tramways (Extension), Huddersfield Corporation Tramways, Leeds Corporation Tramways, Newcastle-upon-Tyne Corporation Tramways, and Portobello and Musselburgh Tramways." [Tramways Orders Confirmation (No. 1) Bill (Lords).]

And, also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act to confirm a Provisional Order made by the Board of Education, under the Education Acts, 1870 to 1902, to enable the School Board for London to put in force the Lands Clauses Acts." [Education Board Provisional Order Confirmation (London) Bill (Lords).]

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 14) Bill; Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 10) Bill.—Lords' Amendments to be considered To-morrow.

Tramways Orders Confirmation (No. 1) Bill [Lords].—Read the first time; Referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, and to be printed. [Bill 270.]

Education Board Provisional Order Confirmation (London) Bill [LORDS].—Read the first time; Referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, and to be printed. [Bill 271.] 135

PETITIONS.

CHURCH DISCIPLINE BILL.—Petition from Streatham, against; to lie upon the Table 136

LICENCES RENEWAL AND TRANSFER BILL.—Petition from Cumberland, against; to lie upon the Table 136

PLUMBERS' REGISTRATION BILL.—Petition from Glasgow and the West of Scotland, in favour; to lie upon the Table 136

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS ON SUNDAY BILL.—Petitions in favour: from Falmouth; Bristol; Flushing; and Penwerris; to lie upon the Table 136

July 9.] *Page*

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

IRISH LAND COMMISSION.—Copy presented, of Report of the Commissioners for the period from 1st April, 1902, to 31st March, 1903 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table... 136

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE (ENGLAND, SCOTLAND, AND IRELAND).—Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 17th March; *Mr. Lough*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 248.] 136

TREATY SERIES (NO. 10, 1903).—Copy presented, of Commercial Convention between the United Kingdom and Persia. Signed at Tehran, 9th February, 1902. Ratifications exchanged at Tehran, 27th May, 1903 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 136

INEBRIATE REFORMATORIES (REGULATIONS).—Copy presented, of Regulations made with the approval of the Secretary of State for the Home Department for the management and discipline of the certified Inebriate Reformatories at Lewes and Chesterfield [by Act]; to lie upon the Table 136

INEBRIATE REFORMATORIES (REGULATIONS).—Copy presented, of amended Regulations made with the approval of the Secretary of State for the Home Department for the management and discipline of the certified Inebriate Reformatories at Brentry and Horfield [by Act]; to lie upon the Table 137

FISHERIES (SCOTLAND).—Copy presented, of Report of Inquiry as to Herring Fishery in the Firth of Clyde, etc. [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 137

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

IRRIGATION BY STATE CANALS IN INDIA.—Question, Mr. Weir (Ross and Cromarty); Answer, Lord George Hamilton... 137

INDIAN AGRICULTURAL BANKS COMMITTEE—REPORT.—Question, Mr. Weir; Answer, Lord George Hamilton 137

WHITEHALL LIGHT—SAFETY OF FISHERMEN.—Question, Mr. Cathcart Wason (Orkney and Shetland); Answer, Mr. A. Graham Murray... 138

FISHERIES COMMISSION AND ORKNEY COUNTY COUNCIL.—Question, Mr. Cathcart Wason; Answer, Mr. A. Graham Murray... 138

IMPORTS OF MANUFACTURED STEEL AND IRON INTO GREAT BRITAIN.—Question, Sir Thomas Wrightson (St. Pancras, E.); Answer, Mr. Bonar Law ... 138

DR. KNAGGS—PRACTICE AT KOBÉ.—Question, Mr. Weir; Answer, Lord Cranborne 139

SUAKIM-BERBER RAILWAY.—Question, Mr. Harwood (Bolton); Answer, Lord Cranborne 139

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS—LIMIT OF SIZE.—Question, Sir John Gorst (Cambridge University); Answer, Sir William Anson 140

SANITARY CONDITION OF POST OFFICE AT 10, OXFORD STREET.—Question, Mr. Patrick O'Brien (Kilkenny); Answer, Mr. Austen Chamberlain 140

AUXILIARY POSTMEN—INCREASED WAGES AND RETIRING ALLOWANCE.—Question, Captain Donelan (Cork Co., E.); Answer, Mr. Austen Chamberlain 141

July 9.] *Page*

NEW POST OFFICE AT BELTURBET.—Question, Mr. M'Govern (Cavan, W.); Answer, Mr. Austen Chamberlain 141

TELEGRAPHISTS' MAXIMUM SALARY. — Question, Mr. James O'Connor (Wicklow, W.); Answer, Mr. Austen Chamberlain 141

UNIFORM FOR POSTMAN J. BLACK.—Question, Mr. James O'Connor; Answer, Mr. Austen Chamberlain 142

PAUPER FUNERALS—PAYMENT FOR EXTRA CHARGES.—Question, Mr. Soares (Devonshire, Barnstaple); Answer, Mr. Walter Long 142

ORPHAN AND DESERTED CHILDREN.—Question, Mr. Harwood; Answer, Mr. Walter Long 143

APPEALS IN COUNTY LONGFORD.—Question, Mr. J. P. Farrell (Longford, N.); Answer, Mr. Atkinson 143

PAYMENT OF REBATES UNDER THE FINANCE ACTS IN IRELAND.—Question, Mr. J. P. Farrell; Answer, Mr. Ritchie 144

REMUNERATION OF STAFF OF IRISH AGRICULTURAL AND TECHNICAL INSTRUCTION BOARD.—Question, Mr. MacVeagh (Down, S.); Answer, Mr. Wyndham ... 144

ROCK ANGUS LIGHTHOUSE.—Question, Mr. H. C. Richards (Finsbury, E.); Answer, Mr. Wyndham 145

QUALIFICATION OF NURSES IN MONAGHAN UNION HOSPITALS.—Question, Dr. Thompson (Monaghan, N.); Answer, Mr. Wyndham 145

RETURN OF LUNATICS IN IRISH ASYLUMS.—Question, Mr. Samuel Young (Cavan, E.); Answer, Mr. Wyndham... 146

IRISH INTERMEDIATE EDUCATION—REDUCED STANDARD. — Question, Mr. O'Mara (Kilkenny, S.); Answer, Mr. Wyndham 146

TENT BOTTOMS FOR OFFICERS. — Question, Sir George Bartley (Islington, N.); Answer, Mr. Brodrick 147

QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE.

CASE OF J. C. VANTYEN.—Question, Mr. Swift MacNeill (Donegal, S.); Answer, The Financial Secretary to the War Office (Lord Stanley, Lancashire, Westhoughton) 147

TRANSVAAL—DEPORTATION OF BRITISH UNDESIRABLES.—Questions, Mr. Markham (Nottinghamshire, Mansfield); Answers, The Secretary of State for the Colonies (Mr. J. Chamberlain, Birmingham, W.) 148

TRANSVAAL MUNICIPAL ELECTION ORDINANCE.—Question, Mr. Markham; Answer, Mr. J. Chamberlain 149

AUSTRALIAN COMMONWEALTH AND FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS.—Question, Mr. William Redmond (Clare, E.); Answer, Mr. J. Chamberlain 149

INTERNATIONAL SEA POST OFFICES.—Question, Mr. Alfred Davies (Carmarthen Boroughs); Answer, The Postmaster-General (Mr. Austen Chamberlain, Worcestershire, E.) 150

BRITISH CEMETERY AT CORFU.—Question, Mr. Stevenson (Suffolk, Eye); Answer, The Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs (Lord Cranborne, Rochester) 150

July 9.] *Page*

CRETE.—Question, Mr. Stevenson ; Answer, Lord Cranborne 150

BRUSSELS SUGAR CONVENTION.—Questions, Mr. Gibson Bowles and Mr. Lough (Islington, W.) ; Answers, The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr. Ritchie, Croydon) 151

SUGAR REFINERIES IN BOND.—Question, Mr. Lough ; Answer, Mr. Ritchie ... 153

SALE OF DOMESTIC MEDICINES.—Question, Captain Norton (Newington, W.) ; Answer, The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr. Arthur Elliot, Durham) 153

LOCHGELLY (FIFESHIRE)—OUTBREAK OF TYPHOID.—Question, Mr. John Hope (Fifeshire, W.) ; Answer, The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mr. Akers Douglas, Kent, St. Augustine's) 154

EDUCATION RATES.—Questions, Mr. Levy (Leicestershire, Loughborough) ; Answers, The President of the Local Government Board (Mr. Walter Long, Bristol, S.) 154

FISCAL INQUIRY AND BRITISH SHIPPING.—Question, Mr. Charles M'Arthur (Liverpool, Exchange) ; Answer, The Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Trade (Mr. Bonar Law, Glasgow, Blackfriars) 155

ISLAND OF LEWIS — HOUSING LOANS. — Question, Mr. Weir (Ross and Cromarty) ; Answer, The Solicitor-General (Mr. Scott Dickson, Glasgow, Bridgton) 156

SCOTTISH COUNTY COUNCIL CLERKS AS PARLIAMENTARY AGENTS.—Questions, Mr. Pirie (Aberdeen, N.) and Mr. Cathcart Wason (Orkney and Shetland) ; Answers, Mr. Scott Dickson 156

CASTLETOWN BEREHAVEN FISHING INDUSTRY.—Question, Mr. Gilhooly (Cork County, W.) ; Answer, The Chief Secretary for Ireland (Mr. Wyndham, Dover) 157

KERRY POTATO GROWING INDUSTRY. — Question, Mr. Thomas O'Donnell (Kerry, W.) ; Answer, Mr. Wyndham 157

GUN LICENCES IN COUNTY GALWAY.—Question, Mr. Duffy (Galway, S.) ; Answer, Mr. Wyndham 158

DONING (GALWAY) CONTINUATION EVENING SCHOOL.—Question, Mr. Duffy ; Answer, Mr. Wyndham 158

DALKEY REVISION COURT.—Question, Mr. Lundon (Limerick, E.) ; Answer, Mr. Wyndham 158

FISCAL INQUIRY AND HIGHLAND DEER FORESTS. — Question, Mr. Weir ; Answer, The Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury (Mr. A. J. Balfour, Manchester, E.) 159

ROYAL VISIT TO IRELAND.—Question, Mr. James O'Connor (Wicklow, W.) ; Answer, Mr. A. J. Balfour 160

IRISH POST OFFICE—EXHIBITION OF EMIGRATION NOTICES.—Questions, Mr. Thomas O'Donnell and Mr. Lough ; Answers, Mr. Austen Chamberlain ... 160

SCOTTISH ESTIMATES.—Question, Mr. Weir ; Answer, Mr. A. J. Balfour ... 161

July 9.] *Page*

BRITISH SHIPPING AND FOREIGN PROTECTIVE SYSTEMS.—Question, Mr. Charles M'Arthur; Answer, Mr. A. J. Balfour 161

CONTINENTAL POWERS AND THE SUGAR CONVENTION.—Questions, Mr. Gibson Bowles and Mr. Lough; Answers, Mr. A. J. Balfour 162

THE IRISH LAND BILL.—Question, Mr. John Redmond (Waterford); Answer, Mr. A. J. Balfour 163

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR'S SALARY.—Question, Mr. Pirie; Answer, Mr. A. J. Balfour 163

NEW PROCEDURE RULES.—Questions, Dr. Farquharson (Aberdeenshire, W.); Answers, Mr. A. J. Balfour 153

SELECTION (STANDING COMMITTEES).—Mr. HALSEY reported from the Committee of Selection: That they had discharged the following Members from the Standing Committee on Trade (including Agriculture and Fishing), Shipping and Manufactures:—Mr. Cameron Corbett, Mr. J. P. Farrell, and Mr William M'Killop; and had appointed in substitution: Sir William Tomlinson, Mr. Kilbride, and Mr. Flavin.

Report to lie upon the Table 164

NEW BILL.

London School Board (Hilldrop Road Site) Bill.—"To enable the School Board for London to complete the purchase of a site for a Pupil Teachers' Centre, situate in Hilldrop Road, in the parish of St. Mary Islington, and the erection of buildings thereon, and to authorise expenditure incurred and to be incurred in connection therewith," presented by Sir William Anson; to be read a second time to-morrow, and to be printed. [Bill 272.] 165

Marriage with Foreigners Bill.—"To amend the Law in respect to Marriages between British subjects and foreigners," presented by Mr. Macdona; supported by Mr. Talbot, Mr. Rothschild, Sir Joseph Dimsdale, Mr. Churchill, Lord Hugh Cecil, Captain Norton, Mr. T. P. O'Connor, Mr. Samuel Evans, Dr. Farquharson, Mr. Stuart Samuel, and Mr. Heywood Johnstone; to be read a second time upon Monday next, and to be printed. [Bill 273.] 165

SUPPLY [16TH ALLOTTED DAY].

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. JEFFREYS (Hampshire, N.) in the Chair.]

CIVIL SERVICES AND REVENUE DEPARTMENTS ESTIMATES, 1903-4.—CLASS IV.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a sum, not exceeding £5,249,806, be granted to His Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1904, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Board of Education, and of the various Establishments connected therewith, including sundry Grants in Aid."

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Education (Sir William Anson, Oxford University) 165
Mr. William Jones (Carnarvonshire, Arfon) 187

Page
Sir John Gorst (Cambridge University) 190
Lord Edmund Fitzmaurice (Wiltshire, Cricklade) 199
Sir William Anson 205
Mr. Vicary Gibbs (Hertfordshire, St. Albans) 205
Dr. Macnamara (Camberwell, N.)... 206
Mr. Cripps (Lancashire, Stretford) 214
Mr. Yoxall (Nottingham, W.) 218
Mr. Ernest Gray (West Ham, N.) 221
Mr. Bryce (Aberdeen, S.) 228
Sir F. S. Powell (Wigan) 233
Mr. Alfred Hutton (Yorkshire, W.R., Morley) 235

And, it being half-past Seven of the clock, the Chairman left the Chair to make his Report to the House.

Committee report Progress; to sit again this evening.

EVENING SITTING.

London and North Western Railway Bill [LORDS] (BY ORDER).—Read the third time and passed, without Amendment.

SUPPLY [16TH ALLOTTED DAY.]

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[MR. JEFFREYS (Hampshire, N.) in the Chair.

CIVIL SERVICES AND REVENUE DEPARTMENTS ESTIMATES, 1903-4.—CLASS IV.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a sum not exceeding £5,249,806, be granted to His Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1904, for the salaries and expenses of the Board of Education, and of the various establishments connected therewith, including, grants-in-aid."

Mr. Alfred Hutton... 236
Mr. Middlemore (Birmingham, N.) 237
Mr. Lloyd-George (Carnarvon Boroughs) 238
Sir William Anson 242
Mr. Emmott (Oldham) 246

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a sum, not exceeding £5,249,706, be granted for the said Service."—(*Mr. Emmott.*)

Mr. Whitley (Halifax) 255
Sir William Anson 257
Sir John Gorst 262
Mr. Emmott 263

Motion, by leave, withdrawn.

Original Question again proposed.

Sir John Gorst 264
Mr. Norman (Wolverhampton, S.)... 264
Mr. Weir (Ross and Cromarty) 265

July 10.] *Page*

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a sum, not exceeding £5,249,606, be granted for the said Service."—(*Mr. Weir.*)

Sir William Anson 265

Question put.

The Committee proceeded to a division, and the Chairman stated that he thought the Noes had it; and, on his decision being challenged, it appeared to him that the division was frivolously claimed, and he accordingly directed the Ayes to stand up in their places, and three Members having stood up, the Chairman declared that the Noes had it.

Original Question put, and agreed to.

CLASS II.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a sum, not exceeding £9,985, be granted to His Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1904, for the salaries and expenses of the office of His Majesty's Secretary for Scotland and subordinate office, expenses under The Inebriate Acts, 1879 to 1900, and expenses under The Private Legislation Procedure (Scotland) Act, 1899, including a Grant in aid of the Congested Districts (Scotland) Fund."

Mr. Dewar (*Inverness-shire*) 267

And, it being Midnight, the Chairman left the Chair to make his Report to the House.

Resolution to be reported upon Monday next; Committee also report Progress; to sit again upon Monday next.

Adjourned at three minutes after Twelve o'clock.

HOUSE OF LORDS: FRIDAY, 10TH JULY, 1903.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

The LORD CHANCELLOR acquainted the House that the Clerk of the Parliaments had laid upon the Table the Certificate from the Examiners that the Standing Orders applicable to the following Bill have been complied with:—Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (No. 5).

Also the Certificate that no Standing Orders are applicable to the following Bill:—Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (No. 7).

And also the Certificates that the further Standing Orders applicable to the following Bills have been complied with:—Strabane and Letterkenny Railway; Baker Street and Waterloo Railway (Extension of Time); Kingston-upon-Hull Corporation; Sheffield Corporation.

The same were ordered to lie on the Table 269

Ulster and Connaught Light Railways Bill.—Examiner's Certificate of non compliance with the Standing Orders referred to the Standing Orders Committee on Tuesday next 269

Scottish Central Electric Power Bill [H.L.].—The Chairman of Committees informed the House that the opposition to the Bill was withdrawn. The Order made on 23rd June last discharged, and Bill committed for Tuesday next 269

July 10.] Page

London County Council (Tramways and Improvements) Bill; Metropolitan Police Provisional Order Bill; London United Tramways Bill; Harrow Road and Paddington Tramways Bill.—Report from the Committee of Selection, That the Earl of Craven and the Lord Belhaven and Stenton be proposed to the House as members of the Select Committee on the said Bills in the place of the Earl Waldegrave and the Lord Kilmaine. Read, and agreed to 269

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 5) Bill.—Report from the Committee of Selection, That the Lord Denham be proposed to the House as a member of the Select Committee on the said Bill in the place of the Earl of Mayo. Read, and agreed to 270

Brighton Corporation Bill [H.L.].—Moved, That Standing Orders Nos. 143 and 143A be dispensed with, and that the Bill be now read 3ª; agreed to; Bill read 3ª accordingly, and passed, and sent to the Commons 270

South Staffordshire Tramways Bill [H.L.].—Read 3ª, and passed, and sent to the Commons 270

Wolverhampton and Cannock Chase Railway (Extension of Time) Bill.—Read 3ª, and passed... 270

Hyde Corporation Bill; Leigh Corporation Bill; Broadstairs Gas Bill.—Read 3ª, with the Amendments, and passed, and returned to the Commons 270

London and North-Western Railway Bill [H.L.].—Returned from the Commons agreed to 270

Hexham Gas Bill [H.L.]—Returned from the Commons agreed to, with Amendments 270

Nantwich Urban District Council Bill [H.L.]; Sheffield and South Yorkshire Navigation Bill [H.L.]; Torquay Corporation Water Bill [H.L.].—Returned from the Commons agreed to, with Amendments. The said Amendments considered, and agreed to 270

Nelson Corporation Bill; West Cumberland Electric Tramways Bill; Fishguard and Rosslare Railways and Harbour Bill.—Returned from the Commons with the Amendments agreed to 270

Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 5) Bill.—Moved, That the Order made on the 16th March last, "That no Provisional Order Confirmation Bill brought from the House of Commons shall be read a second time after Thursday the 18th day of June next," be dispensed with, and that the Bill be now read 2ª; agreed to; Bill read 2ª accordingly, and committed to a Committee of the Whole House on Tuesday next 270

Local Government Provisional Order (No. 16) Bill.—Read 3ª (according to Order), with Amendments, and passed, and returned to the Commons ... 271

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 17) Bill; Local Government Provisional Order (No. 18) Bill.—Read 3ª (according to Order), and passed 271

Pier and Harbour Provisional Orders (No. 2) Bill; Pier and Harbour Provisional Orders (No. 3) Bill; Pier and Harbour Provisional Orders (No. 4) Bill.—House in Committee (according to Order); Amendments made; Standing Committee negatived. The Report of Amendments to be received on Monday next 271

Pier and Harbour Provisional Orders (No. 5) Bill.—Committee of the Whole House (which stands appointed for this day) put off to Tuesday next 271

Pier and Harbour Provisional Orders (No. 6) Bill.—House in Committee (according to Order); Bill reported without Amendment; Standing Committee negatived; and Bill to be read 3^a on Monday next 271

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

TRADE REPORTS—(ANNUAL SERIES).
No. 3025. Turkey (Baghdad).
No. 3026. Turkey (Beirut and the Coast of Syria) 271

COMMERCIAL No. 5 (1903).—Correspondence with the Governments of Belgium and Germany as to their commercial relations with Great Britain and the British Colonies 271

IRISH LAND COMMISSION.—Report of the Commissioners, for the period from 1st April, 1902, to 31st March, 1903.

Presented (by Command), and ordered to lie on the Table... 271

PUBLIC RECORDS (DEPARTMENT OF THE COMPTROLLER AND AUDITOR-GENERAL).—Second Schedule containing a list and particulars of classes of documents which have been removed from the office of the Comptroller and Auditor-General, and deposited in the Public Record Office, but which are not considered of sufficient public value to justify their preservation therein ... 271

INTERMEDIATE EDUCATION (IRELAND).—Rules made by the Intermediate Education Board for Ireland for the examination in music 272

INDIA (PROGRESS AND CONDITION).—Statement exhibiting the moral and material progress and condition of India during the year 1901–1902, and the nine preceding years, thirty-eight number (being the fourth decennial Report).

Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table 272

Borough Funds Bill.—Read 3^a (according to Order), with the Amendment, and passed, and returned to the Commons 272

Pistols Bill.—House in Committee (according to Order). Bill reported without Amendment; and re-committed to the Standing Committee 272

PREFERENTIAL TARIFFS—THE POSITION OF INDIA.

The Earl of Northbrook 272
Lord Avebury 280
The Earl of Elgin 284
The Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs (*The Marquess of Lansdowne*) 288
The Marquess of Ripon 293
Viscount Goschen 297
Lord Reay 298
The Lord President of the Council (*The Duke of Devonshire*) 301

Local Government (Transfer of Powers) Bill—[THIRD READING].—Order of the Day for the Third Reading read.

Lord Kenyon 301

July 10.] *Page*

On Question, Bill read 3ª, with the Amendments, and passed, and returned to the Commons.

House adjourned at twenty-five minutes before Seven o'clock, to Monday next, a quarter before Eleven o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS: FRIDAY, 10TH JULY, 1903.

The House met at Twelve of the Clock.

THE VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS.

Mr. Gibson Bowles 302
Mr. Speaker 302

UNOPPOSED PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

PRIVATE BILLS [LORDS] (STANDING ORDERS NOT PREVIOUSLY INQUIRED INTO COMPLIED WITH).—Mr. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bills, originating in the Lords, and referred on the First Reading thereof, the Standing Orders not previously inquired into, and which are applicable thereto, have been complied with, viz. :—Bury and District Joint Water Board Bill [Lords]; Scottish Ontario and Manitoba Land Company Bill [Lords].

Ordered, That the Bills be read a second time 303

Cheshire Lines Committee Bill; Highland and Invergarry and Fort Augustus Railway Companies Bill.—Lords' Amendments considered, and agreed to 303

Pontypridd Urban District Council Bill [LORDS].—Read the third time, and passed, with Amendments 303

Cardiff Railway Bill [LORDS]; Scottish-American Mortgage Company, Limited, Bill [Lords].—As amended, considered; to be read the third time 303

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 10) Bill; Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 14) Bill.—Lords' Amendments considered, and agreed to 303

Alexandra Park and Palace Bill.—Reported, without Amendment; Report to lie upon the Table.

Bill to be read the third time 304

Castleblaney, Keady, and Armagh Railway (Extension of Time) Bill; Worthing Corporation (Tramways) Bill [Lords]; Derby Gas Bill [Lords].—Reported, with Amendments; Reports to lie upon the Table, and to be printed 304

Dudley, Stourbridge, and District Tramways Bill [LORDS].—Reported, with an Amendment; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed ... 304

Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire Tramways Bill [LORDS]; Bournemouth Corporation Tramways Bill [Lords]; Poole and District Electric Traction Bill [Lords].—Reported, with Amendments; Reports to lie upon the Table, and to be printed 304

July 10.] Page

Birmingham Corporation Bill [LORDS].—Reported from the Police and Sanitary Committee, with Amendments; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed 304

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.

That they have agreed to—Amendments to Hastings Tramways (Extensions) Bill [Lords], without Amendment.

That they have passed a Bill, intituled, "An Act to transfer to the Board of Agriculture powers and duties relating to the Industry of Fishing, and to amend The Board of Agriculture Act, 1889." [Board of Agriculture and Fisheries Bill (Lords).]

Also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act to empower the Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses of the county borough of Brighton to construct and work tramways and street works; and for other purposes." [Brighton Corporation Bill (Lords).]

And, also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act to confer further powers upon the South Staffordshire Tramways (Lessee) Company, Limited; for the working of tramways by electrical power; and for other purposes." [South Staffordshire Tramways Bill (Lords).] 304

Brighton Corporation Bill [LORDS]; South Staffordshire Tramways Bill [Lords].—Read the first time; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills 305

London School Board (Hilldrop Road Site) Bill. — Ordered, That the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills do examine the London School Board (Hilldrop Road Site) Bill with respect to compliance with the Standing Orders relative to Private Bills.—(*Sir William Anson.*) 305

PETITIONS.

LICENCES RENEWAL AND TRANSFER BILL.—Petition from Hove, against; to lie upon the Table 305

LICENCES RENEWAL AND TRANSFER BILL AND LICENSING LAW (COMPENSATION FOR NON-RENEWAL) BILL.—Petitions against: from Edinburgh; and Nottingham; to lie upon the Table 305

LICENSING (SCOTLAND) ACTS AMENDMENT BILL.—Two Petitions from Edinburgh, in favour; to lie upon the Table 305

MOTOR CARS (SPEED).—Petition from Leeds, against alteration of Law; to lie upon the Table 305

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

INTERMEDIATE EDUCATION (IRELAND).—Copy presented, of Rules made by the Intermediate Education Board for Ireland for the examination in music, dated 26th June, 1903 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table 305

EAST INDIA (PROGRESS AND CONDITION).—Copy presented, of statement exhibiting the moral and material progress and condition of India during the year 1901–2. Thirty-eighth number [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 249.] 305

TRAMWAYS ORDERS CONFIRMATION (No. 2) BILL [LORDS].—Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 9th July; *Mr. Bonar Law*]; to lie upon the table, and to be printed. [No. 250.] 306

July 10.]

Page

TRADE REPORTS (ANNUAL SERIES).—Copies presented, of Diplomatic and Consular Reports, Annual Series, Nos. 3020 to 3026 [by Command]; to upon the Table 306

TRADE REPORTS (MISCELLANEOUS SERIES).—Copy presented, of Diplomatic and Consular Reports, Miscellaneous Series, No. 594 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 306

COMMERCIAL RELATIONS (COMMERCIAL, NO. 5, 1903).—Copy presented, of Correspondence with the Governments of Belgium and Germany as to their Commercial Relations with Great Britain and British Colonies [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

Paper laid upon the Table by the Clerk of the House :—

PUBLIC RECORDS (COMPTROLLER AND AUDITOR-GENERAL).—Copy of Second Schedule containing a list and particulars of classes of documents which have been removed from the office of the Comptroller and Auditor-General and deposited in the Public Record Office, but which are not considered of sufficient public value to justify their preservation therein [by Act] ... 306

COUNTY COURTS (PLAINTS AND SITTINGS).—Address for "Returns from every County Court in England and Wales of the total number of Plaints, etc., entered in each Court from the 1st day of January to the 31st day of December, 1902, both days inclusive, distinguishing those not exceeding £20, those above £20 and not exceeding £50, and those by agreement over £50."

"And, of the Sittings of the County Courts in England and Wales holden before the Judges of such Courts in the year 1902 (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper [Cd. 1405])."—(*Mr. Cochrane.*) 306

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

SPIRIT LICENCES TO GOLD COAST NATIVES.—Question, Sir John Kennaway (Devonshire, Honiton); Answer, Mr. J. Chamberlain 307

AD VALOREM STAMP DUTY ON AUTHORISED CAPITAL.—Question, Mr. T. M. Healy (Louth, N.); Answer, Mr. Ritchie 307

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS FOR LAST HALF-YEAR.—Question, Mr. Herbert Samuels (Yorkshire, Cleveland); Answer, Mr. Bonar Law 308

SCOTLAND TO KILLESHANDRA—DELAYS IN TRANSIT.—Question, Mr. M'Govern (Cavan, W.); Answer, Mr. Wyndham 309

POSTAL FACILITIES AT DRUMQUIN, COUNTY TYRONE.—Question, Dr. Thompson (Monaghan, N.); Answer, Mr. Austen Chamberlain 309

TELEPHONIC COMMUNICATION AT MILL HILL.—Question, Mr. Moon (St. Pancras, N.); Answer, Mr. Austen Chamberlain 310

SUPERANNUATED IRISH MEDICAL OFFICERS.—Question, Mr. J. P. Farrell (Longford, N.); Answer, Mr. Wyndham 310

FARMS ON THE CUSACK ESTATE, COUNTY LONGFORD.—Question, Mr. J. P. Farrell; Answer, Mr. Wyndham 310

TRANSIT OF BUTTER FROM KILLESHANDRA TO SCOTLAND—ALLEGED NEGLECT.—Question, Mr. M'Govern; Answer, Mr. Wyndham 311

July 13.] *Page*

Naval Works Bill—[SECOND READING].—Order for Second Reading read.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now read a second time."

The Civil Lord of the Admiralty (*Mr. Pretyman, Suffolk, Woodbridge*) 311
Mr. Edmund Robertson (*Dundee*) 330
Mr. Buchanan (*Perthshire, E.*) 338
Mr. Eugene Wason (*Clackmannan and Kinross*) 342

Amendment proposed—

"To leave out from the word 'That,' to the end of the Question, in order to add the words 'this House declines to sanction expenditure on new works for the total cost of which an estimate is not, as has hitherto been the practice, included in the Bill.'"—*Mr. Buchanan.*

Question proposed. "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Question."

Mr. Reginald Lucas (*Portsmouth*) 343
Mr. Gibson Bowles (*Lynn Regis*) 345
Mr. Thomas Shaw (*Hawick Burghs*) 347
Mr. Plummer (*Newcastle-on-Tyne*) 351
Mr. Munro Ferguson (*Leith Burghs*) 353
Sir John Colomb (*Great Yarmouth*) 354
Mr. Black (*Banffshire*) 357
Mr. Pretyman 359
Mr. William Redmond (*Clare, E.*) 369

Question put.

House divided: Ayes, 164; Noes, 73. (Division List, No. 141.)

Main Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read a second time, and committed for Monday next.

Adjourned at eighteen minutes before Six o'clock till Monday next.

HOUSE OF LORDS: MONDAY, 13TH JULY, 1903.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

The LORD CHANCELLOR acquainted the House that the Clerk of the Parliaments had laid upon the Table the Certificates from the Examiners that the Standing Orders applicable to the following Bills have been complied with: Drainage and Improvement of Lands (Ireland) Provisional Order; Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 13); Public Offices (Dublin).

The same were ordered to lie on the Table 373

Hexham Gas Bill [H.L.].—Commons' Amendments considered, and agreed to 373

Bath Corporation Water Bill.—Reported, with Amendments 373

Seaforth and Sefton Junction Railway Bill.—Reported from the Select Committee, with Amendments 373

Local Government Provisional Orders (No 5) Bill.—Reported from the Select Committee, without Amendment, and committed to a Committee of the Whole House 373

July 13.] *Page*

London United Tramways Bill.—Report from the Select Committee, That the Committee had not proceeded with the consideration of the Bill, no parties having appeared in opposition thereto; read, and ordered to lie on the Table. The Orders made on the 26th of May, and Thursday last discharged; and Bill committed for Thursday next. 373

Kingston-upon-Hull Corporation Bill; Gateshead Corporation Bill.–Moved, That the Order made on the 16th March last, "That no Private Bill brought from the House of Commons shall be read a second time after the 18th day of June next," be dispensed with, and that the Bills be now read 2ª; agreed to; Bills read 2ª accordingly 373

Metropolitan District Railway (Various Powers) Bill.—Read 3ª, with the Amendments; further Amendments made; Bill passed, and returned to the Commons 373

Great Northern Railway Bill; Midland and Belfast and Northern Counties Railways Bill.—Read 3ª, with the Amendments, and passed, and returned to the Commons 374

Gateshead Corporation Bill.—Committed 374

Pontypridd Urban District Council Bill [H.L.]—Returned from the Commons agreed to, with Amendments 374

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 10) Bill; Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 14) Bill; Cheshire Lines Committee Bill; Highland and Invergarry and Fort Augustus Railway Companies Bill.—Returned from the Commons with the Amendments agreed to 374

Pier and Harbour Provisional Orders (No. 2) Bill; Pier and Harbour Provisional Orders (No. 3) Bill; Pier and Harbour Provisional Orders (No. 4) Bill.—Amendments reported (according to Order), and Bills to be read 3ª To-morrow 374

Pier and Harbour Provisional Orders (No. 6) Bill.—Read 3ª (according to Order), and passed 374

Metropolitan Police Provisional Order Bill; Harrow Road and Paddington Tramways Bill.—Report from the Committee of Selection, "That the Lord Lamington be proposed to the House as a member of the Select Committee on the said Bills in the place of the Lord Belhaven and Stenton; read, and agreed to 374

South Shields Corporation Bill; Dublin, Wicklow, and Wexford Railway Bill; Ebbw Vale Water and Improvement Bill; Western Valleys (Monmouthshire) Sewerage Board Bill.—Report from the Committee of Selection, That the Lord Lamington be proposed to the House as a member of the Select Committee on the said Bills in the place of the Lord Kilmaine; read, and agreed to 374

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

Board of Education.—Statement of schemes for the formation of Education Committees, approved during the month of June, 1903, by the Board of Education, under Section 17 of the Education Act of 1902 (in continuation of Parliamentary Papers, Command Nos. 1564, 1613, and 1659 of session 1903), showing—Name of local authority; number of the council; number of members of the Education Committee; number of members of the

July 13.] Page

Education Committee who are necessarily members of the Council; number of women who are necessarily on the Education Committee; forms of educational experience to be represented on the Committee; recommendations or nominations (if any) 375

TRADE REPORTS:

Annual Series.

No. 3027. United States (Porto Rico).
No. 3028. France (Dahomey).
No. 3029. Italy (Leghorn).
No. 3030. Japan (Hadokate) 375

JUDICIAL STATISTICS (IRELAND), 1902.—Part II. Civil Statistics:

Presented [by Command], and ordered to lie on the Table 375

GAS AND WATER WORKS FACILITIES ACT, 1870.—Report, by the Board of Trade, as to dispensing with the consent of the Farnborough Urban District Council in the case of the Aldershot Gas and Water Provisional Order 375

DISEASES OF ANIMALS ACTS, 1894 AND 1896.—Foreign Animals Order of 1903.

Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table . 375

PETITION.

INTOXICATING LIQUORS.—Petition for restraint of sale of; of the Mossley Temperance Union; read, and ordered to lie on the Table 375

Port of London Bill.—Report from the Joint Committee, That the Bill ought to be allowed to proceed: The Proceedings of the Committee and the Minutes of Evidence laid upon the Table, and to be delivered out ... 375

Irish Land Bill.—Date of Second Reading.

The Earl of Westmeath 376
The Lord President of the Council (The Duke of Devonshire) 376
Earl Spencer 377

THE PRESERVATION OF WILD ANIMALS IN CENTRAL AFRICA.

Viscount Sidmouth... 377
The Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs (The Marquess of Lansdowne) 378

THE FISCAL POLICY OF THE COUNTRY.

Lord Heneage 379
The Duke of Devonshire 383

House adjourned at five minutes before Five o'clock, till To-morrow, a quarter past Four o'clock... ...

HOUSE OF COMMONS: MONDAY, 13TH JULY, 1903.

The House met at Two of the Clock.

UNOPPOSED PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

PRIVATE BILLS [LORDS] (STANDING ORDERS NOT PREVIOUSLY INQUIRED INTO COMPLIED WITH).—Mr. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of

July 13.] *Page*

the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bill, originating in the Lords, and referred on the First Reading thereof, the Standing Orders not previously inquired into, and which are applicable thereto, have been complied with, viz.:—Pentillie Estate Bill [Lords].

Ordered, That the Bill be read a second time 384

PROVISIONAL ORDER BILLS [LORDS] (STANDING ORDERS APPLICABLE THERETO COMPLIED WITH).—MR. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bill, originating in the Lords, and referred on the First Reading thereof, the Standing Orders which are applicable thereto have been complied with, viz.:—Tramways Orders Confirmation (No. 2) Bill [Lords].

Ordered, That the Bill be read a second time To-morrow 384

PRIVATE BILLS [LORDS] (STANDING ORDERS NOT PREVIOUSLY INQUIRED INTO NOT COMPLIED WITH).—MR. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bill, originating in the Lords, and referred on the First Reading thereof, the Standing Orders not previously inquired into, and which are applicable thereto, have not been complied with, viz.:—South-Western and Isle of Wight Junction Railway Bill [Lords].

Ordered, That the Report be referred to the Select Committee on Standing Orders 385

Merthyr Tydfil Urban District Council Bill.—Lords' Amendments considered, and agreed to 385

Port Talbot Railway and Docks Bill [LORDS].—Read the third time, and passed, without Amendment 385

London, Brighton, and South Coast Railway Bill [LORDS].—As amended, considered; and Amendment made; Bill to be read the third time ... 385

Lochnell Estate Bill [LORDS]; North-Western Electricity and Power-Gas Bill [Lords]; Shropshire and Worcestershire Electric Power Bill [Lords]; West Bromwich Corporation Bill [Lords].—Read a second time and committed 385

Frinton-on-Sea Sea Defences Bill [LORDS] (by Order).—Read the third time and passed, with Amendments. [New Title.] 385

Bangor Corporation Bill [LORDS].—Report [9th July] from the Select Committee on Standing Orders read.

Bill to be read a second time 385

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.

That they have agreed to—Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 17) Bill; Local Government Provisional Order (No. 18) Bill; Wolverhampton and Cannock Chase Railway (Extension of Time) Bill, without Amendment.

Borough Funds Bill, with an Amendment.

Local Government (Transfer of Powers) Bill; Local Government Provisional Order (No. 16) Bill; Hyde Corporation Bill; Leigh Corporation Bill; Broadstairs Gas Bill, with Amendments.

Amendments to—Nantwich Urban District Council Bill [Lords]; Sheffield and South Yorkshire Navigation Bill [Lords]; Torquay Corporation Water Bill [Lords], without Amendment 385

July 13.] *Page*

PETITIONS.

LIGHT LOCOMOTIVES (REGISTRATION) BILL.—Petition from Battersea, against; to lie upon the Table 386

LICENSING LAW (COMPENSATION FOR NON-RENEWAL) BILL.—Petition from Cumberland, against; to lie upon the Table 386

LICENSING (SCOTLAND) ACTS AMENDMENT BILL.—Petition from Milton, for alteration: to lie upon the Table 386

SHOPS (EARLY CLOSING) BILL.—Petition from Battersea, against; to lie upon the Table 386

SHOPS (NO. 2) BILL.—Petition from Battersea, in favour; to lie upon the Table 386

TRADE MARKS BILL.—Petition from Manchester, for alteration; to lie upon the Table 386

VACCINATION PROSECUTIONS.—Petitions from Trowbridge and Melksham, for alteration of Law; to lie upon the Table 386

WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION ACT (1897) AMENDMENT BILL.—Petition from Battersea, in favour; to lie upon the Table 386

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

BOARD OF EDUCATION (EDUCATION COMMITTEES).—Copy presented, of statement of schemes for the formation of Education Committees approved during the month of June, 1903, by the Board of Education under Section 17 of the Education Act of 1902 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 387

CRIMINAL AND JUDICIAL STATISTICS (IRELAND).—Copy presented, of Criminal and Judicial Statistics of Ireland for the year 1902. Part II. Civil statistics [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 387

GAS AND WATER WORKS FACILITIES ACT, 1870.—Copy presented, of Report by the Board of Trade as to dispensing with the consent of the Farnborough Urban District Council in the case of the Aldershot Gas and Water Provisional Order [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed, [No. 251.] 387

DISEASES OF ANIMALS ACTS, 1894 AND 1896.—Copy presented, of an Order, dated the 30th June, 1903, entitled the Foreign Animals Order of 1903 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table 387

TRADE REPORTS (ANNUAL SERIES).—Copies presented, of Diplomatic and Consular Reports, Annual Series, Nos. 3027 to 3030 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

Paper laid upon the Table by the Clerk of the House 387

INQUIRY INTO CHARITIES (COUNTY OF WILTS.)—Further Return relative thereto [ordered 9th August, 1901; *Mr. Griffith Boscawen*]; to be printed. [No. 252.] 387

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

MEDICAL EXAMINATION OF SCHOOL CHILDREN.—Question, Sir John Brunner (Cheshire, Northwich); Answer, Sir William Anson 388

July 13.]

Page

SUPERANNUATION ALLOWANCES FOR SCOTTISH PUBLIC ASYLUM OFFICIALS.—Question, Sir J. Fergusson (Manchester, N.E.); Answer, Mr. A. Graham Murray 388

PHYSICAL TRAINING IN SCOTLAND.—Question, Mr. Harmsworth (Caithness-shire); Answer, Mr. A. Graham Murray 389

PACE OF MOTOR MAILS.—Question, Mr. Cathcart Wason (Orkney and Shetland); Answer, Mr. Austen Chamberlain 389

INLAND REVENUE v. MCDONNELL.—AMOUNT OF COSTS.—Question, Mr. Delany (Queen's County, Ossory); Answer, Mr. Ritchie 389

INLAND REVENUE v. MCDONNELL.—ASSESSMENT OF INCOME.—Question, Mr. Delany; Answer, Mr. Ritchie 390

COASTING STEAMERS.—UNCERTIFIED OFFICERS.—Question, Sir John Leng (Dundee); Answer, Mr. Gerald Balfour 390

REMOVAL OF SUNKEN BOAT AT BATTASOUND.—Question, Mr. Cathcart Wason; Answer, Mr. Gerald Balfour 391

TONNAGE OF FISHING BOATS.—Question, Mr. Cathcart Wason; Answer, Mr. Gerald Balfour 391

REGULATION OF SIZE OF MOTOR CAR TYRES.—Question, Mr. Henry Hobhouse (Somersetshire, E.); Answer, Mr. Walter Long 392

VACCINATION PROSECUTIONS AT GAINSBOROUGH.—Mr. Seymour Ormsby-Gore (Lincolnshire, Gainsborough); Answer, Mr. Walter Long 392

COOPER'S HILL ENGINEERING COLLEGE.—Question, Sir Seymour King (Hull, Central); Answer, Lord George Hamilton 393

LONDON EDUCATION.—ELECTION OF NEW AUTHORITY.—Question, Mr. Herbert Robertson (Hackney, S.); Answer, Sir William Anson 393

SCHOOLS ABOVE ORDINARY LIMITS OF ACCOMMODATION.—Question, Sir John Gorst (Cambridge University); Answer, Sir William Anson 393

DELAY IN ERECTION OF LABOURERS' COTTAGES IN THE CAVAN UNION.—Question, Mr. M'Govern (Cavan, W.); Answer, Mr. Wyndham 394

PROSECUTION FOR CARTS WITHOUT OWNERS' NAME THEREON.—Question, Mr. Flynn (Cork Co., N.); Answer, Mr. Wyndham 395

STERILISATION OF WATER FOR TROOPS IN THE FIELD.—Question, Sir Michael Foster (London University); Answer, Mr. Brodrick 395

SOLDIERS SERVING ABROAD.—COST OF TELEGRAMS.—Question, Mr. Platt-Higgins (Salford, N.); Answer, Mr. Brodrick 396

MAJORS SERVING AWAY FROM THEIR REGIMENTS.—Question, Mr. Pirie (Aberdeen, N.); Answer, Mr. Brodrick 396

BRITISH AND NATIVE LOSSES IN SOMALILAND.—Question, Mr. Pirie; Answer, Mr. Brodrick 397

STRENGTH OF ARMY VETERINARY DEPARTMENT.—Question, Mr. Pirie; Answer, Mr. Brodrick 397

July 13.] *Page*

CONSTRUCTION OF SUAKIN-BERBER RAILWAY.—Question, Mr. Whitley Thomson (Yorkshire W.R., Skipton); Answer, Mr. Brodrick 397

QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE.

COST OF SOUTH AFRICAN GARRISON. — Question, Mr. Edmund Robertson (Dundee); Answer, The Secretary of State for War (Mr. Brodrick, Surrey, Guildford) 398

ROYAL ARSENAL, WOOLWICH. — Question, Dr. Hutchinson (Sussex, Rye); Answer, Mr. Brodrick 399

ARMY CORPS.—Question, Mr. Pirie (Aberdeen, N.); Answer, Mr. Brodrick .. 399

STAFF OFFICERS AND REGIMENTAL DUTY.—Question, Mr. Pirie; Answer, Mr. Brodrick 399

IRISH TAILORS AND WAR OFFICE CONTRACTS.—Question, Mr. Lundon (Limerick, B.); Answer, Mr. Brodrick 400

LOCOMOTIVES FOR CANADA.—Question, Mr. Remnant (Finsbury, Holborn); Answer, The Secretary of State for the Colonies (Mr. J. Chamberlain, Birmingham, W.) 400

COLONIAL IMPORT DUTIES. — Questions, Mr. Alfred Davies (Carmarthen Boroughs) and Mr. Gibson Bowles (Lynn Regis); Answers, The President of the Board of Trade (Mr. Gerald Balfour, Leeds, Central) 401

TRADE WITH TIBET.—Question, Mr. Weir (Ross and Cromarty); Answer, The Secretary of State for India (Lord George Hamilton, Middlesex, Ealing)... 401

ROADS TO THE TIBETAN FRONTIER.—Question, Mr. Weir; Answer, Lord George Hamilton 402

RUSSIAN EVACUATION OF MANCHURIA.—Question, The Master of Elibank (Edinburgh, Midlothian); Answer, The Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs (Lord Cranborne, Rochester) 402

MECCA PILGRIMS.—Question, Mr. Weir; Answer, Lord Cranborne 403

EGYPT.—Question, Mr. Weir; Answer, Lord Cranborne... 403

GERMAN COMMERCIAL TREATY.—Question, Mr. Edmund Robertson; Answer, Lord Cranborne 403

INCOME TAX COLLECTIONS IN SCOTLAND.—Questions, Mr. M'Crae (Edinburgh, E.); Answer, The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr, Ritchie, Croydon) ... 404

REBATE ON GLUCOSE.—Questions, Mr. Flower (Bradford, W.) and Mr. James Lowther (Kent, Thanet); Answers, Mr. Ritchie 404

TELEGRAPHIC DELAYS IN SCOTLAND.—Question, Sir John Leng (Dundee): Answer, The Postmaster-General (Mr. Austen Chamberlain, Worcestershire, E.) 406

ECCLESIASTICAL COMMISSIONERS.—Question, Mr. Brynmor Jones (Swansea, District); Answer, The Parliamentary Charity Commissioner (Mr. Lees Knowles, Salford, W.) 406

SCOTTISH COUNTY COUNCIL CLERKS AS ELECTION AGENTS.—Question, Mr. Pirie; Answer, The Lord Advocate (Mr. A. Graham Murray, Buteshire) 407

July 1 .]

Page

CONTEMPT OF COURT IN IRELAND.—Question, Mr. Dillon (Mayo, E.); Answer, The Chief Secretary for Ireland (Mr. Wyndham, Dover) 407

MUNSTER AND THE CONGESTED DISTRICTS BOARD.—Questions, Mr. Gilhooly (Cork Co., W.) and Mr. Flavin (Kerry, W.); Answers, Mr. Wyndham ... 408

SMALL FARMERS' DWELLINGS LOANS.—Questions, Mr. Power (Waterford E.) and Mr. T. W. Russell (Tyrone, S.); Answers, Mr. Wyndham 408

IRISH TRIALS—CHANGES OF VENUE.—Questions, Mr. P. J. O'Brien (Tipperary, N.) and Mr. Dillon; Answers, Mr. Wyndham 409

IRISH LOAN FUND SOCIETIES.—Questions, Mr. Dillon; Answers, Mr. Wyndham 409

BELMULLET AND MALLARONNY STEAMERS.—Question, Mr. O'Kelly (Mayo, N.); Answer, Mr. Wyndham 410

IRISH GUN LICENCES.—Question, Mr. Thomas O'Donnell (Kerry, W.); Answer, Mr. Wyndham 410

NENAGH COTTAGE SCHEME.—Question, Mr. P. J. O'Brien; Answer, Mr. Wyndham 411

GRAZING FARMS IN CONGESTED DISTRICTS.—Question, Mr. O'Dowd (Sligo, S.); Answer, Mr. Wyndham 412

PUBLIC AUDITS IN IRELAND.—Question, Mr. Lundon; Answer, The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr. Arthur Elliot, Durham) 412

IRISH SAVINGS BANK ACCOUNTS.—Question, Mr. Lundon; Answer, Mr. Austen Chamberlain 413

COUNTY CORK POSTAL ARRANGEMEMTS.—Question, Captain Donelan (Cork Co., E.); Answer, Mr. Austen Chamberlain 413

NEW NAVAL BASE—FORTH AND CLYDE CANAL.—Questions, Mr. Pirie and Mr Eugene Wason (Clackmannan and Kinross); Answers, The Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury (Mr. A. J. Balfour, Manchester, E.) ... 414

THE FISCAL INQUIRY.—Questions, Mr. John Ellis (Nottinghamshire, Rushcliffe), Mr. Swift MacNeill, Mr. Soames (Norfolk, S.) and Mr. Black (Banffshire) 415

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.—Questions, Sir Charles Dilke (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean), Mr. Swift MacNeill, Mr. Gibson Bowles, Mr. Markham (Nottinghamshire, Mansfield), Mr. Buchanan (Perthshire, E.) and Mr. Weir; Answers, Mr. A. J. Balfour 416

Port of London Bill.—Reported, with Amendments, from the Joint Committee, with Minutes of Evidence. Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. Bill, as amended in the Joint Committee, re-committed to a Committee of the Whole House for Wednesday, and to be printed. [Bill 274.] 417

Prevention of Corruption Bill [LORDS].—Reported, with Amendments, from the Standing Committee on Law, etc. Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 253]; Minutes of the Proceedings of the Standing Committee to be printed [No. 253]. Bill, as amended (in the Standing Committee), to be considered To-morrow, and to be printed. [Bill 275.]... 417

Poor Prisoners' Defence Bill.—Special Report from the Select Committee brought up and read. Special Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 254.] 417

Licensing Acts (Scotland) Consolidation and Amendment Bill.—As amended (by the Standing Committee), considered.

Clause (Forfeiture of Excise licences in certain cases—)

"In Part III., to move the following clause—'Every holder of an Excise licence for the sale of excisable liquor obtained without the production of a certificate from a licensing Court, who shall be guilty of an offence against the provisions of the sections of this Act, whereof the marginal notes are respectively "Distribution of liquor from vans," "Penalties for selling without certificate," "Penalty for selling spirits or trafficking in excisable liquors without certificate," and "Penalty for hawking excisable liquors," or any of such provisions, shall, on conviction thereof, forfeit such licence, and shall be incapable of obtaining or holding such licence for a period of two years from the date of such conviction, and it shall be the duty of the clerk of the convicting Court to transmit forthwith to the Commissioners of Inland Revenue the particulars of any such conviction.'"—(*The Lord Advocate.*)

Brought up, and read the first time.

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the clause be read a second time."

Mr. Crombie (*Kincardineshire*) 418

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In line 8, after the word 'provisions' to insert the words 'or of knowingly permitting any breach of the peace, or riotous or disorderly conduct within his premises, or selling or supplying excisable liquors to persons who are in a state of intoxication, or selling or giving out the same on Sunday.'"—(*Mr. Crombie.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted in the Bill."

The Lord Advocate (*Mr. A. Graham Murray, Buteshire*) 419

Question put, and agreed to.

Clause, as amended, added to the Bill.

Clause (Police to report offences)—

"In Part VI., insert the following clause:—'A chief officer of police shall, without undue delay, report to the procurator fiscal or other party by this Act directed to prosecute offenders all offences committed against this Act coming to his knowledge, and shall at all times use the means within his control for the detection and, when necessary, the apprehension of all offenders.'"—(*The Lord Advocate.*)

Brought up, and read the first and second time and added to the Bill

Mr. Crombie 419

Clause (No new grocers' licences to be granted)—

"After the passing of this Act it shall not be lawful for licensing authority of any burgh or county or district of a county to grant any new certificate for the sale of spirits, wine, beer, or other excisable liquors to any grocer or provision dealer, except in premises exclusively used for the sale of excisable liquors."—(*Mr. Crombie.*)

Brought up, and read the first time.

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the clause be read a second time."

Mr. A. Graham Murray ... 420
Sir Robert Reid (Dumfries Burghs) ... 420

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 64; Noes, 102. (Division List No. 142.)

Mr. Munro Ferguson (Leith, Burghs) ... 423

Clause (Canvassing)—

> "Any person canvassing any member of the licensing authority for a licence shall, on summary conviction before the sheriff, be liable to a penalty not exceeding £100.—(*Mr. Munro Ferguson.*)

Brought up and read the first time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the clause be read a second time."

Mr. A. Graham Murray ... 423
Sir Robert Reid ... 423
Mr. Galloway (Manchester, S.W.) ... 424
Sir J. Fergusson (Manchester, N.E.) ... 425
Sir Mark Stewart (Kirkcudbrightshire) ... 425
Sir John Leng (Dundee) ... 426
Mr. Groves (Salford, S.) ... 426
Mr. Wallace (Perth) ... 426
Sir Lewis M'Iver (Edinburgh, W.) ... 427
Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman (Stirling Burghs) ... 427
Mr. A. Graham Murray ... 427
Mr. Pike Pease (Darlington) ... 429
Captain Sinclair (Forfar) ... 429
Mr. Parker Smith (Lanarkshire, Partick) ... 429
Mr. John Wilson (Falkirk Burghs) ... 430
Mr. Buchanan (Perthshire, E.) ... 430
Sir J. Stirling Maxwell (Glasgow, College) ... 431

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 83; Noes, 146. (Division List No. 143.)

Sir J. Stirling Maxwell ... 433

Clause (Penalty on persons found on premises during closing hours)—

> "If, during any period during which any premises are required under the provisions of this Act to be closed, any person is found on such premises, he shall, unless he satisfies the Court that he was an inmate, servant, or a lodger on such premises, or a *bonâ fide* traveller, or that otherwise his presence on such premises was not in contravention of the provision of this Act with respect to the closing of the licensed premises, be liable to a penalty not exceeding 40s. Any constable may demand the name and address of any person found on any premises during the period during which they are required by the provisions of this Act to be closed, and if he has reasonable ground to suppose that the name and address given is false may require evidence of the correctness of such name and address, and may, if such person fail upon such demand to give his name or address or such evidence, apprehend him without warrant and convey him as soon as practicable before a justice of the peace or other magistrate. Any person required by a constable under this section to give his name and address who fails to give the same, or

July 13.] Page

gives a false name and address, or gives false evidence with respect to such name and address, shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding £5."—(*Sir J. Stirling-Maxwell.*)

Brought up, and read the first time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the clause be read a second time."

Mr. A. Graham Murray 433

Question put and negatived.

Mr. Galloway 435

Clause (Exemption of Railway Stations)—

"Nothing in this Act contained as to hours of closing shall preclude the sale at any time at a railway station of excisable liquors to persons arriving at or departing from such stations by railroad."—(*Mr. Galloway.*)

Brought up and read the first time.

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the clause be read a second time."

Mr. A. Graham Murray 436
Sir Robert Reid 436
Sir J. Fergusson 437
Sir Herbert Maxwell (*Wigtonshire*) 437
Mr. Munro Ferguson 438
Mr. Corbett (*Glasgow, Tradeston*) 438
Mr. Gretton (*Derbyshire, S.*) 438
Sir Mark Stewart 438

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 148; Noes, 117. (Division List No. 144.)

Clause added to the Bill.

Mr. Crombie 441

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 10, to leave out the word 'Courts,' and insert the word 'authorities.'"—(*Mr. Crombie.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'Courts' stand part of the Bill."

Mr. A. Graham Murray 442
Sir Robert Reid 442
Mr. McCrae (*Edinburgh, E.*) 443
Mr. Whittaker (*Yorkshire W. R., Spen Valley*) 444
Mr. Asquith (*Fifeshire, E.*) 444
Mr. Wallace (*Perth*) 445
Mr. Hunter Craig (*Lanarkshire, Govan*) 445
Sir John Leng 445
Mr. A. Graham Murray 446
Mr. Caldwell (*Lanarkshire, Mid*) 446

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 206; Noes, 90. (Division List, No. 145.)

Sir Robert Reid 449

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 1, line 13, after the word 'royal,' to insert the word 'or:'"—(*Sir Robert Reid.*)

Question put, "That the word 'or' be there inserted in the Bill."

The Earl of Dalkeith (Roxburgh) ... 451
Mr. A. Graham Murray ... 451
Mr. Asher (Elgin Burghs) ... 453
Sir Mark Stewart ... 454
Mr. Munro Ferguson ... 454
Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman ... 454
Mr. Asquith ... 455
Captain Sinclair ... 456
Mr. Eugene Wason (Clackmannan and Kinross) ... 456
Mr. Buchanan ... 457

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 97; Noes, 226. (Division List No. 146.)

Mr. Eugene Wason ... 459

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 1, line 14, to leave out the word 'seven,' and insert the word 'four.'"—(*Mr. Eugene Wason.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'seven' stand part of the Bill."

Mr. A. Graham Murray ... 461
Mr. Parker Smith ... 462
Mr. McCrae ... 462
Mr. Crombie ... 462

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 220; Noes, 95. (Division List, No. 147.)

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 1, line 14, after the word 'thousand,' to insert the words 'and for each burgh containing a population under 7,000, but of or exceeding 4,000, the magistrates of which have power to grant certificates under the existing Acts.'"—(*The Lord Advocate.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted in the Bill."

Mr. Asher ... 465

Amendment proposed to the proposed Amendment to the Bill—

"In line 2, after the word 'containing' to insert the words 'at the date of the passing of this Act as proved to the satisfaction of the Secretary for Scotland.'"—(*Mr. Asher.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be here inserted in the proposed Amendment to the Bill."

Mr. A. Graham Murray ... 466

Amendment to the proposed Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

The Earl of Dalkeith.

July 13.] *Page*

Amendment proposed to the proposed Amendment to the Bill—

"In line 3, to leave out the word 'four' and insert the word 'two.'"—(*Earl of Dalkeith.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'four' stand part of the proposed Amendment to the Bill."

Mr. A. Graham Murray 467
Sir Robert Reid 467

Question put, and agreed to.

Proposed words there inserted in the Bill.

Mr. Charles Douglas (*Lanarkshire, N.W.*) 467

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 1, line 15, to leave out from the words 'consisting of,' to the word 'Provided,' in line 18, and insert the words 'a committee appointed by the town council from their own number in accordance with the scale contained in the first schedule annexed hereto.'"—(*Mr. Charles Douglas*) *instead thereof.*

Question proposed "That the words proposed to be left out to the word 'and' in line 16, stand part of the Bill."

Question put, and agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill.

"In page 1, line 16, to leave out from the word 'being' to end of clause."—(*The Lord Advocate.*)

Question proposed "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Bill."

Mr. Parker Smith 469

Question put, and negatived.

Amendment agreed to.

Mr. Charles Douglas 470

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 2, line 25, to leave out the words 'one half of.'"—(*Mr. Charles Douglas.*)

Question proposed, "That the words 'one half of' stand part of the Bill."

Mr. A. Graham Murray 470
Mr. Dalziel 470
Mr. Black 471

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 217; Noes, 86. (Division List No. 148.)

Mr. Eugene Wason... 473

Amendment proposed—

"In page 2, line 30, to leave out the words, 'the magistrates of which have power to grant certificates under the existing Acts.'"—(*Mr. Eugene Wason.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Bill."

Mr. A. Graham Murray 475

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 2, line 38, to leave out from beginning of line, to the word 'Provided,' in line 39, and insert the words, 'number of the Court without such addition as the population of the burgh bears to the population of the county or district excluding every such burgh.'"—(*The Lord Advocate.*)

Amendment agreed to.

The Earl of Dalkeith 475

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 2, line 30, after the word 'magistrates,' to insert the words, 'or councillors.'"—(*The Earl of Dalkeith.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted in the Bill."

Question put, and negatived.

Mr. Munro Ferguson 475

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 3, line 3, to leave out clause 4."—(*Mr. Munro Ferguson.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out to the words, 'one-half' in line 5, stand part of the Bill."

Mr. A. Graham Murray 476
Mr. Asher 476
Mr. Black 476
Mr. Bryce (*Aberdeen, S.*) 477
Sir Chas. Renshaw (*Renfrewshire, W.*) 478
Sir James Ferguson 478
Mr. Dalziel 478
Mr. Groves 478

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 217; Noes, 76. (Division List No. 149.)

And it being after half-past Seven of the clock, further consideration of the Bill, as amended, stood adjourned till this Evening's Sitting.

EVENING SITTING.

Licensing Acts (Scotland) Consolidation and Amendment Bill.—As amended (by the Standing Committee), further considered.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 3, line 5, to leave out the words 'one-half,' and insert the words 'two-thirds.'"—(*Mr. Groves.*)

Question proposed, "That the words 'one-half' stand part of the Bill."

Mr. A. Graham Murray 481
Mr. Gretton 482

July 13.]

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Amendments proposed to the Bill—

"In page 3, line 10, after the word '(2),' insert the words 'Except as hereinafter provided.'"

"In page 3, lines 23 and 24, to leave out the words 'having a separate licensing Court and containing a population,' and insert the words 'containing a population of or exceeding 7,000 and.'"

"In page 3, line 30, after the word 'Courts,' to insert the words 'and from any burgh licensing Court for a burgh situate within the county which is not specified in the immediately preceding sub-section.'"—(*The Lord Advocate.*)

Amendments agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 3, lines 39 and 40, to leave out the words 'a proprietor of lands or houses or has not a residence or a place of business,' and insert the words 'entered in the valuation roll in force for the time being as a proprietor, tenant, or occupier of lands or heritages.'"—(*The Lord Advocate.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Mr. Charles Douglas 483

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 4, line 3, at the end, to add the words '(a) The Court of appeal from a county licensing Court or county district licensing court as hereinbefore provided shall be modified by the addition thereto for each county of such a number of representatives, being magistrates from the burghs under 7,000 population, within each county as the Secretary for Scotland shall determine, by order under his hand, having regard to the relative population of the burghs and county respectively: Provided, that the number of magistrates to be determined as aforesaid shall not exceed the number of justices of the peace for the county contained in the Court of appeal; (b) The burgh representatives on the Court of appeal as provided in the immediately preceding sub-section shall be elected at a meeting of the magistrates of the burghs without separate licensing Courts within each county, to be convened by the town clerk of the county town of each county on the third Tuesday of December one thousand nine hundred and four, and they shall hold office till the third Tuesday of December one thousand nine hundred and five, when they shall retire, and their successors shall be elected at a meeting to be convened as aforesaid, and thereafter such retiral and election shall take place every third year at a meeting convened as aforesaid to be held on the third Tuesday of December, and the members so elected shall act for three years.'"—(*Mr. Charles Douglas.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

Mr. A. Graham Murray 484
Mr. Dalziel 484

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 56; Noes, 110. (Division List No. 150.)

July 13.] *Page*

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 4, line 31, to leave out from beginning of line to the word 'and,' in line 32."—(*The Lord Advocate.*)

Amendment agreed to.

The Earl of Dalkeith 485

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 6, line 10, to leave out sub-section (11)."—(*The Earl of Dalkeith.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out to the word 'new' in line 12, stand part of the Bill."

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 6, line 12, to leave out the word 'new.'"—(*Sir John Leng.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'new' stand part of the Bill."

Mr. A. Graham Murray 486
Mr. Dalziel 488

Question put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 124 ; Noes, 63. (Division List No. 151.)

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 6, line 12, after the word 'certificate,' to insert the words 'or renewal.'"—(*Sir John Leng.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted in the Bill."

Mr. A. Graham Murray 489

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 12, line 5, to leave out from the word 'premises,' to end of sub-section (1), and insert the words 'and notwithstanding the repeal of any enactment by this Act the duty payable upon any Excise licence granted in pursuance of such a certificate shall continue to be at the same rate as was exigible for a similar licence immediately before the passing of this Act.'"—(*The Lord Advocate.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Bill."

Question put, and negatived.

Question, "That those words be there inserted in the Bill," put, and agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 12, line 18, to leave out the word 'eleventh,' and insert the words 'twenty-eighth.'"—(*Sir John Leng.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'eleventh' stand part of the Bill."

Question put and negatived.

Question "That the words 'twenty-eighth' be then inserted put, and agreed to."

July 13.] *Page*

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 13, line 24, at the end, to insert the words 'For the purpose of preventing repeated applications for new certificates a licensing Court may at any general half-yearly meeting make regulations determining the time which must elapse after the hearing and refusal of one application for a certificate before another application may be made in respect of the same premises. Provided that the Court may in their discretion, for good cause shown, dispense with the observance of these regulations in any particular case.'"—(*Mr. Hunter Craig.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted in the Bill."

Mr. A. Graham Murray 491
Sir. Robert Reid 491
Mr. Dalziel 492
Mr. Hunter Craig 493
Mr. Gretton... 495

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 17, line 1, to leave out the words 'or proprietor or occupier of property in the neighbourhood of such house.'"—(*Mr. Gretton.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Bill."

Mr. A. Graham Murray 496

Question put and agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 17, line 1, after the first word 'or,' to insert the words 'if any.'"—(*The Lord Advocate.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 17, line 2, after the word 'house,' to insert the words 'who has objected before the licensing Court to the granting or renewal of any such certificate.'"—(*The Lord Advocate.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Mr. Black 497

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 22, line 17, after the word 'Sunday,' to insert the words 'or when in any case the Court considers that the premises should be closed during the whole of Sunday.'"—(*Mr. Black.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted in the Bill."

Mr. A. Graham Murray 498
Mr. Crombrie 498
Mr. Parker Smith 500

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes 76; Noes, 165. (Division List No. 153.)

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 23, line 7, at beginning to insert the words 'either (1).'"

—(*The Lord Advocate.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Mr. A. Graham Murray 501

Amendment proposed to the Bill.—

"In page 23, line 11, to leave out the word 'and,' and insert the words 'or (2) to open any restaurant for which a public-house certificate is held or keep the same open for the sale and consumption of provisions and refreshments of any kind other than exciseable liquors on such public or special occasion, and for that purpose only during such time, and before or beyond the hours prescribed by his certificate for opening and closing respectively, Sunday expected, and in either case.'"—(*The Lord Advocate*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 23, line 34, after the word 'permission,' to insert the words 'to sell exciseable liquors.'"—(*The Lord Advocate.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Mr Groves 503

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 23, lines 40 and 41, to leave out the words 'and on such other occasions as the licensing Court may deem fit and expedient for special reasons.'"—(*Mr. Groves.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Bill."

Sir J. Stirling Maxwell 503
Mr. A. Graham Murray 504
Mr. Munro Ferguson 504
Mr. Parker Smith 504
Major Jameson (*Clare, W.*) 505
Mr. Dalziel... 506
Mr. Buchanan 506
Mr. Asher 507
Mr. Bryce 507

Question put, and agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 23, line 40, to leave out the word 'occasions,' and insert the words 'days not being more than four in any one year.'"—(*The Lord Advocate.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'occasions' stand part of the Bill."

Mr. Dalziel 508

Question put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 65; Noes, 181. (Division List No. 154.)

Proposed words there inserted in the Bill.

Mr. Shaw Stewart (*Renfrewshire, E.*) 511
Mr. Buchanan 512
Mr. A. Graham 512

Question put.

July 14.] *Page*

The House divided :—Ayes, 76 ; Noes, 159. (Division List No. 155.)

Words "wines and spirits" there inserted in the Bill.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 24, line 19, to leave out the words 'with other information as may be considered by them necessary.'"—(*Mr. Gretton.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Bill."

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Sir John Leng 515

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 25, line 2, to leave out the words 'to be consumed on the premises.'"—(*Sir John Leng.*)

Mr. A. Graham Murray 515

Question put, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Bill."

The House proceeded to a division.

Sir A. ACLAND-HOOD and Mr. AILWYN FELLOWES were appointed Tellers for the Ayes; but no Member being willing to act as Teller for the Noes, Mr. SPEAKER declared that the Ayes had it.

Sir John Leng 516

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 25, lines 28 and 29, to leave out the words 'in that part of the premises where exciseable liquor is sold or consumed.'"—(*Sir John Leng.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Bill."

And, it being Midnight, consideration of the Bill, as amended (by the Standing Committee), stood adjourned.

Bill, as amended (by the Standing Committee), to be further considered upon Wednesday.

Day Industrial Schools (Ireland) Bill.—Considered in Committee ; Committee report Progress ; to sit again to-morrow 516

Church Discipline Bill.—Considered in Committee; Committee report Progress ; to sit again to-morrow 516

Adjourned at seven minutes after Twelve o'clock.

HOUSE OF LORDS : TUESDAY, 14TH JULY, 1903.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE.—Report from, That the Standing Orders not complied with in respect of the Ulster and Connaught Light Railways Bill ought to be dispensed with, subject to Clause 14 being struck out of the

uly 14.] *Page*

Bill, unless the special resolution of the Clogher Valley Railway Company approving of the Bill be proved before the Examiners before the Third Reading of the Bill.

Read, and agreed to 517

ainault Forest Bill.—The Chairman of Committees informed the House that the opposition to the Bill was withdrawn: The order made on the 18th of June last discharged, and Bill committed 517

ullingar, Kells, and Drogheda Railway Bill.—The King's consent signified; and, Bill reported from the Select Committee, with Amendments 517

ast Ham Improvement Bill; Scottish Central Electric Power Bill [H.L.]; Woolwich Borough Council Bill; Watford and Edgware Railway Bill.—Reported, with Amendments 517

reat Southern and Western Railway Bill.—Reported, without Amendment 517

rabane and Letterkenny Railway Bill; Baker Street and Waterloo Railway (Extension of Time) Bill; Sheffield Corporation Bill.—Moved, That the order made on the 16th March last, "That no Private Bill brought from the House of Commons shall be read a second time after the 18th day of June next," be dispensed with, and that the Bills be now read 2^{a}; agreed to; Bills read 2^{a} accordingly 517

Vood Green Urban District Council Bill; Baker Street and Waterloo Railway (Transfer) Bill, now Baker Street and Waterloo Railway Bill; Walker and Wallsend Union Gas Bill; Midland Great Western Railway of Ireland Bill.—Read 3^{a}, with the Amendments, and passed, and returned to the Commons 517

Kingston-upon-Hull Corporation Bill; Strabane and Letterkenny Railway Bill; Sheffield Corporation Bill.—Committed: The Committees to be proposed by the Committee of Selection 518

aker Street and Waterloo Railway (Extension of Time) Bill.—Committed 518

outh Shields Corporation Bill.—Reported from the Select Committee, That the Committee had not proceeded with the consideration of the Bill, no parties having appeared in opposition thereto; read, and ordered to lie on the Table: The orders made on the 30th of June and Thursday last discharged; and Bill committed 518

astleblaney, Keady, and Armagh Railway (Extension of Time) Bill; Croydon and District Electric Tramways Bill.—Brought from the Commons; read 1^{a}; and referred to the Examiners 518

ort Talbot Railway and Docks Bill [H.L.].—Returned from the Commons agreed to 518

rinton-on-Sea Sea Defences Bill [H.L.].—Returned from the Commons agreed to, with Amendments 518

Merthyr Tydfil Urban District Council Bill.—Returned from the Commons with the Amendments agreed to 518

July 14.] Page

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 9) Bill; Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 5) Bill.—House in Committee (according to Order): Bills reported without Amendment: Standing Committee negatived; and Bills to be read 3ª on Thursday next 518

Pier and Harbour Provisional Orders (No. 5) Bill.—House in Committee (according to Order): An Amendment made: Standing Committee negatived: The Report of Amendment to be received on Thursday next ... 518

Glasgow Corporation Tramways Order Confirmation Bill [H.L.]; Glasgow Corporation (Police) Order Confirmation Bill [H.L.]; Irvine and District Water Board Order Confirmation Bill [H.L.]; Lanarkshire Tramways Order Confirmation Bill [H.L.).—Read 2ª (according to Order), and (pursuant to the Private Legislation Procedure (Scotland) Act, 1899), deemed to have been reported from the Committee: Bills to be read 3ª on Thursday next 518

Pier and Harbour Provisional Orders (No. 2) Bill; Pier and Harbour Provisional Orders (No. 3) Bill.—Read 3ª (according to Order), with the Amendments, and passed, and returned to the Commons 519

Pier and Harbour Provisional Orders (No. 4) Bill.—Read 3ª (according to Order), with the Amendment, and passed, and returned to the Commons 519

Metropolitan Police Provisional Order Bill; Harrow Road and Paddington Tramways Bill.—Report from the Committee of Selection, That the Lord Colchester be proposed to the House as a member of the Select Committee on the said Bills in the place of the Earl of Craven; read, and agreed to ... 519

Dublin, Wicklow, and Wexford Railway Bill; Ebbw Vale Water and Improvement Bill; Western Valleys (Monmouthshire) Sewerage Board Bill.—Report from the Committee of Selection, That the Earl of Haddington, the Lord Kintore (*E. Kintore*), and the Lord Colchester be proposed to the House as members of the Select Committee on the said Bills in the place of the Earl Waldegrave, the Earl of Powis, and the Lord Harris, and that the Lord Kintore (*E. Kintore*) be Chairman of the said Committee; read, and agreed to 519

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

INDIA (ACCOUNTS AND ESTIMATES 1903–1904).—Explanatory Memorandum by the Secretary of State for India. Presented [by Command], and ordered to lie on the Table 519

Licensing Act Amendment Bill—[SECOND READING.].—Order of the Day for the Second Reading read.

The Earl of Wemyss 520

Moved, That the Bill be now read 2ª.—(*The Earl of Wemyss.*)

The Lord Chancellor (*The Earl of Halsbury*) 522
The Earl of Wemyss 522

Motion (by leave of the House) withdrawn.

Motor-Cars Bill [H.L.].—[SECOND READING.]—Order of the Day for the Second Reading read.

Moved, That the Bill be now read 2ª.—(*Lord Balfour of Burleigh.*)

Page

The Marquess of Granby ... 523
The Earl of Camperdown ... 526
The Earl of Rosslyn ... 535
The Earl of Mayo ... 537
Lord Lamington ... 540
Lord Kelvin ... 541
Earl Spencer ... 542
The Secretary for Scotland (*Lord Balfour of Burleigh*) ... 545
Lord Tweedmouth ... 554

On Question, Bill read 2^{a}.

Lord Balfour of Burleigh ... 557

Bill committed to a Committee of the Whole House on Friday next.

arine Store Dealers (Ireland) Bill.—[SECOND READING.]—Order of the day for the Second Reading read.

The Earl of Denbigh ... 558

Moved, That the Bill be now read 2^{a}.—(*The Earl of Denbigh.*)

On Question, Bill read 2^{a}, and committed to a Committee of the Whole House on Monday next.

lementary Education Amendment Bill; Lunacy Acts (Amendment) London Bill [H.L.].—Reported from the Standing Committee without Amendment, and to be read 3^{a} on Thursday next ... 558

istols Bill.—Reported from the Standing Committee with Amendments: The Report thereof to be received on Thursday next; and Bill to be printed as amended. (No 164.) ... 558

HE FISCAL INQUIRY.

Viscount Goschen ... 558
The Lord President of the Council (*The Duke of Devonshire*) ... 559

HE LONDON EDUCATION BILL.

Earl Spencer ... 561
The Duke of Devonshire ... 561

House adjourned at a quarter past Seven o'clock, to Thursday next, a quarter past Four o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS: TUESDAY, 14TH JULY, 1903.

The House met at two of the Clock.

HE CHAIRMAN OF WAYS AND MEANS.—The Clerk at the Table informed the House of the unavoidable absence of the Chairman of Ways and Means ... 561

UNOPPOSED PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

RIVATE BILLS [LORDS] (STANDING ORDERS NOT PREVIOUSLY ENQUIRED INTO COMPLIED WITH.)—Mr. Speaker laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bills, originating in the Lords, and referred on the First Reading thereof, the Standing Orders not previously inquired into, and which are applicable

July 14.] *Page*

thereto, have been complied with, viz.:—Brighton Corporation Bill [Lords]; South Staffordshire Tramways Bill [Lords].

Ordered, That the Bills be read a second time 562

Grindleford, Baslow, and Bakewell Railway Bill.—Lords' Amendments considered, and agreed to 562

Cardiff Railway Bill [LORDS]. –Read the third time, and passed, with Amendments 562

Croydon and District Electric Tramways Bill.—Read the third time, and passed. [New Title.] 562

Scottish American Mortgage Company, Limited, Bill [LORDS].—Read the third time, and passed, with Amendments 562

Didcot, Newbury, and Southampton Railway Bill [LORDS].—As amended, considered; Bill to be read the third time 562

Mersey Docks and Harbour Board Bill [LORDS]. –As amended, considered, Amendments made; Bill to be read the third time 562

Gosport and Fareham Tramways Bill [LORDS]; Manchester Corporation Bill [Lords]; South Eastern and London, Chatham and Dover Railways Bill [Lords].—Read a second time and committed 562

Castleblaney, Keady, and Armagh Railway (Extension of Time) Bill —Ordered, That, in the case of the Castleblaney, Keady, and Armagh Railway (Extension of Time) Bill, Standing Orders 84, 214, 215, and 239 be suspended, and that the Bill be now taken into consideration provided amended prints shall have been previously deposited.—(*Mr. Caldwell.*)

Bill, as amended, considered accordingly.

Ordered, That Standing Orders Nos. 223 and 243 be suspended, and that the Bill be now read the third time.—(*Mr. Caldwell.*)

Bill accordingly read the third time, and passed 562

Aston Manor Improvement Bill [LORDS] [BY ORDER].—Verbal Amendments made; Bill read the third time, and passed, with Amendments 563

Hastings Harbour District Railway Bill [LORDS] [BY ORDER].—Read a second time, and committed 563

Local Government Provisional Order (No. 16) Bill.—Lords' amendments considered, and agreed to 563

Tramways Orders Confirmation (No. 2) Bill [LORDS].—Read a second time and committed 563

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.

That they have agreed to—Pier and Harbour Provisional Orders (No. 6) Bill, without Amendment.

Metropolitan District Railway (Various Powers) Bill; Great Northern Railway Bill; Midland and Belfast and Northern Counties Railways Bill, with Amendments.

Amendments to Hexham Gas Bill [Lords], without Amendment ... 563

PETITIONS.

Church Discipline Bill.—Petition from Haggerston, against; to lie upon the Table 563

Garrard, Charles Eagle.—Petition of Charles Eagle Garrard, for inquiry into his case; to lie upon the Table 563

Licences Renewal and Transfer Bill.—Petition from Little Hulton, against; to lie upon the Table 564

Licences Renewal and Transfer Bill and Licensing Law (Compensation for Non-Renewal) Bill.—Two Petitions from South Shields, against; to lie upon the Table 564

Licensing Law (Compensation for Non-Renewal) Bill.—Petition from Little Hulton, against; to lie upon the Table 564

Licensing (Scotland) Acts Amendment Bill.—Petition from Edinburgh, for alteration; to lie upon the Table 564

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

Patriot Fund.—Copy presented, of Forty-first Report of the Royal Commissioners of the Patriotic Fund [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 564

Army (Statement of Excesses) 1901–2.—Copy presented, of Statement of the Sum required to be voted in order to make good Excesses of Army Expenditure beyond the Grants for the year ended 31st March, 1902 [by Command]; referred to the Committee of Supply, and to be printed. [No. 255.] 564

East India (Accounts and Estimates, 1903–4).—Copy presented, of Explanatory Memorandum by the Secretary of State for India [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 564

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

"Hyacinth" and "Minerva"—Repairs and Trials.—Colonel Denny (Kilmarnock Burghs); Answer, Mr. Arnold Forster 564

Workmen's Dwellings—Persons Dishoused by Ground Landlords.—Question, Mr. Field (Dublin, St. Patrick); Answer, Mr. Walter Long 565

Income Tax Returns.—Question, Mr. Tankerville Chamberlain (Southampton); Answer, Mr. Ritchie 565

Public Holidays—Allowance to Officials on Piece-work.—Question, Sir Andrew Agnew (Edinburgh, S.); Answer, Mr. Elliot 566

Value of Iron Steel Exports.—Question, Mr. Herbert Samuel (Yorkshire, Cleveland); Answer, Mr. Gerald Balfour 566

Value of Imports into British Colonies and Possessions from Foreign Countries.—Question, Mr. Partington (Derbyshire, High Peak); Answer, Mr. Gerald Balfour 567

Imports of Wheat from Exports of Manufactures to the Colonies from 1832–1845.—Question, Mr. D. A. Thomas (Merthyr Tydvil); Answer, Mr. Gerald Balfour 567

July 14.] *Page*

VALUE OF COAL EXPORTS.—Question, Mr. Mansfield (Lincolnshire, Spalding); Answer, Mr. Gerald Balfour 568

BEAUMARIS COUNTY SCHOOL—FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES.—Question, Mr. Ellis Griffith (Anglesey); Answer, Sir Wm. Anson 568

REDUCTIONS IN THE BASKET SHOP STUFF AT MOUNT PLEASANT FACTORY.—Question, Capt. Norton (Newington, W.); Answer, Mr. Austen Chamberlain 569

SALE OF FEWSTON (YORKSHIRE) GLEBE LANDS.—Question, Mr. Duncan (Yorkshire, W.R., Otley); Answer, Mr. Ailwyn Fellowes 569

INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF METROPOLITIAN MAGISTRATES.—Question, Mr. H. D. Greene (Shrewsbury); Answer, Mr. Akers Douglas 569

IRISH FIRMS AND THE KING'S VISIT.—Question, Mr. Field; Answer, Mr. Elliot 570

RETURN OF RANGES IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.—Question, Mr. Courtney Warner (Staffordshire, Lichfield); Answer, Mr. Brodrick 575

"PASS SCHOOL" CERTIFICATE FOR MILITIA AND VOLUNTEER OFFICERS.—Question, Mr. Partington; Answer, Mr. Brodrick 571

CANADIAN GOVERNMENT RAILWAYS—BRITISH AND FOREIGN TENDERS FOR LOCOMOTIVES.—Question, Mr. Levy (Leicestershire, Loughborough); Answer, Mr. J. Chamberlain 571

QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE.

SOUTH AFRICAN WAR MEDALS.—Question, Major Seely (Isle of Wight); Answer, The Financial Secretary to the War Office (Lord Stanley, Lancashire, Westhoughton) 572

DAMAGED TINNED RATIONS.—Questions, Mr. Cathcart Wason (Orkney and Shetland); Mr. Courtney Warner (Staffordshire, Lichfield); Mr. William Redmond (Clare, E.); Mr. Keir Hardie (Merthyr Tydvil); and Mr. Dillon (Mayo, E.); Answers, Lord Stanley 572

EMPLOYMENT OF RETIRED OFFICERS.—Question, Mr. Henniker Heaton (Canterbury); Answer, Lord Stanley 574

QUICK-FIRING GUN TRIALS.—Question, Major Seely; Answer, Lord Stanley 575

FIJI.—Question, Mr. Cathcart Wason; Answer, The Secretary of State for the Colonies (Mr. J. Chamberlain, Birmingham, W.) 575

EGYPTIAN FINANCES.—Questions, Mr. Brynmor Jones (Swansea District) and Mr. Gibson Bowles (Lynn Regis); Answers, The Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs (Lord Cranborne, Rochester) 576

EGYPTIAN JUDICIAL SYSTEM.—Question, Mr. Brynmor Jones; Answer, Lord Cranborne 576

THE ASSOUAN DAM.—Question, Mr. Weir (Ross and Cromarty); Answer, Lord Cranborne 577

PROVISION FOR THE DESTITUTE IN EGYPT.—Question, Mr. Weir; Answer, Lord Cranborne 577

ANGLO-EGYPTIAN CONVENTION.—Question, Mr. Weir; Answer, Lord Cranborne 577

CORN PRICES RETURN.—Question, Mr. Trevelyan (Yorkshire, W.R., Elland); Answer, The President of the Board of Trade (Mr. Gerald Balfour, Leeds, Central) 578

POST OFFICE TRUSTEE SAVINGS BANK.—Question, Mr. Lundon (Limerick, E.); Answer, The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr. Elliot, Durham) ... 578

RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS.—Question, Dr. Macnamara (Camberwell, N.); Answer, The Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Education (Sir William Anson, Oxford University) 579

MAYO PIERS AND HARBOURS.—Question, Dr. Ambrose (Mayo, W.); Answer, the Attorney-General for Ireland (Mr. Atkinson, Londonderry, N.) 580

FOREIGN TRAWLERS IN DINGLE BAY.—Questions, Mr. Thomas O'Donnell (Kerry, W.), and Mr. Flavin (Kerry, N.); Answers, Mr. Atkinson ... 580

PORTARLINGTON POST OFFICE—CASE OF MARIA BLANC.—Questions, Mr. Delany; Answers, Mr. Austen Chamberlain... 581

IRISH POST OFFICE SAVINGS BANK.—Questions, Mr. Lundon; Answers, Mr. Elliot 582

KELLS RAILWAY STATION.—Question, Mr. Boland (Kerry, S.); Answer, Mr. Gerald Balfour 583

THE FISCAL INQUIRY.—Questions, Mr. Mansfield (Lincolnshire, Spalding), Mr. Bryce (Aberdeen, S.), Mr. Lough (Islington, W.), Mr. Cathcart Wason, Mr. Weir, and Mr. Black (Banffshire); Answers, The Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury (Mr. A. J. Balfour, Manchester, E.) 583

HOUSING OF THE WORKING CLASSES.—Question, Dr. Macnamara; Answer, Mr. A. J. Balfour 586

SELECTION (STANDING COMMITTEES).—Mr. HALSEY reported from the Committee of Selection: That they had discharged the following member from the Standing Committee on Law, and Courts of Justice, and Legal Procedure: Mr. Samuel Roberts; and had appointed in substitution: Mr. Lees Knowles.

Report to lie upon the Table 586

NEW BILL.

Naval Works (Portsmouth Barracks Site) Bill.—"For vesting in the Admiralty certain lands at Portsmouth with the church and buildings thereon for the purpose of, or in connection with, the erection of barracks and for other matters incidental thereto," presented by Mr. Pretyman; to be read a second time upon Wednesday, 22nd July, and to be printed. [Bill 276.] 587

London Education Bill.—As amended, considered.

Mr. Bryce (*Aberdeen, S.*) 588

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"To leave out Clause 1."—(*Mr. Bryce.*)

July 14.] *Page*

Question proposed, "That the words of Clause 1, to the word 'so,' in line 6, stand part of the Bill."

The Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury (*Mr. A. J. Balfour, Manchester, E.*) 589

Question put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 125 ; Noes, 74. (Division List, No. 156.)

Mr. Alban Gibbs (*London*) 594

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 1, line 7, at end, to add the words, 'and for the purposes of such application the City of London shall be a County, and the mayor, aldermen, and commons of that City in common council assembled shall be a County Council.'"—(*Mr. Alban Gibbs.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted in the Bill."

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Education (*Sir William Anson, Oxford University*) 595
Mr. Lloyd-George (*Carnarvon Boroughs*) 595
Mr. Lough (*Islington, W.*)... 596
Mr. Sydney Buxton (*Tower Hamlets, Poplar*) 597
Dr. Macnamara 598
Mr. Cohen (*Islington, E.*) 591
Mr. Bryce 599

Question put and negatived.

Mr. Lough 600

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 1, line 8, to leave out Clause 2."—(*Mr. Lough.*)

Question proposed, "That the words of Clause 2, to the word 'provided' in line 8, stand part of the Bill."

Mr. Whitley (*Halifax*) 601
Sir William Anson 601
Mr. Sydney Buxton (*Tower Hamlets, Poplar*) 603
Sir John Gorst (*Cambridge University*) 604
Mr. Whitmore (*Chelsea*) 606
Dr. Macnamara 606
Mr. Lloyd-George 607
Mr. Yoxall (*Nottingham, W.*) 608
Mr. Bond (*Nottingham, E.*) 609
Mr. George White (*Norfolk, N.W.*) 609
Mr. Bryce 610

Question put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 226 ; Noes, 111. (Division List, No. 157.)

Mr. Peel (*Manchester, S.*) 615

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 1, line 8, after the word 'elementary,' to insert the word 'schools.'"—(*Mr. Peel.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'schools' be there inserted in the Bill."

Page

Mr. Sydney Buxton 616
Mr. Bryce 617

Question put and agreed.

Mr. Mansfield (*Lincolnshire, Spalding*) 617

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 1, line 8, leave out the words, 'provided schools.'"—(*Mr. Mansfield.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'provided' stand part of the Bill."

Sir William Anson 619
Mr. Yoxall 620
Dr. Macnamara 621
Mr. Whitley 623
Mr. Sydney Buxton 625
Mr. George White 626
Mr. Lough 627
Mr. Spear (*Devonshire, Tavistock*) 628
Mr. Samuel Evans (*Glamorganshire, Mid.*) 629

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 253; Noes, 130. (Division List, No. 158.)

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 1, line 8, to leave out the word 'schools,' and insert the words, 'by the local education authority.'"—(*Mr. Peel.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Mr. Bond 633

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 1, line 8, after the last Amendment to leave out the words, 'within the area of each Metropolitan Borough.'"—(*Mr. Bond.*)

Question proposed, "That the words, 'within the area of each Metropolitan Borough' stand part of the Bill."

Mr. Whitley 635
Mr. Lough 636
Sir Frederick Banbury (*Camberwell, Peckham*) 637
Dr. Macnamara 637
Mr. Henry Hobhouse (*Somersetshire, E.*) 638
Mr. Bryce 638
Sir William Anson 640
Mr. Sydney Buxton 640
Mr. Cohen 641
Mr. Alfred Hutton (*Yorkshire, W.R., Morley*) 642

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 239; Noes, 128. (Division List, No. 159.)

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 1, line 9, to leave out the word 'each,' and insert the word 'any.'"—(*Mr. Peel.*)

Amendment agreed to.

July 14.] *Page*

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 1, line 9, to leave out the words 'or bodies.'"—(*Mr. Peel.*)

Question proposed, "That the words 'or bodies' stand part of the Bill."

Mr. Yoxall... 646
Sir William Anson... 647
Mr. Bousfield (*Hackney, N.*) 647

Question put and agreed to.

Mr. Peel 647

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 1, line 10, to leave out the words 'whose number,' and insert the words 'the number of those managers and the manner in which schools, in cases where it is desirable, should be grouped under one body of managers or placed under more than one body of managers.'"—(*Mr. Peel*).

Question proposed, "That the words 'whose number' stand part of the Bill."

Dr. Macnamara 648
Mr. Bryce 648
Mr. Ernest Gray (*West Ham, N.*)... 648
Mr. Bousfield 648
Sir William Anson 649
Mr. Lloyd-George 649

And, it being half-past Seven of the clock, further consideration of the Bill, as amended, stood adjourned till this evening's sitting.

EVENING SITTING.

London Education Bill—As amended, further considered.

Proceedings resumed upon Amendment proposed to the Bill [14th July]—

"In page 1, line 10, to leave out the words 'whose number,' and insert the words 'the number of those managers and the manner in which schools, in cases where it is desirable, should be grouped under one body of managers or placed under more than one body of managers.'"—(*Mr. Peel.*)

Question again proposed, "That the words, 'whose number' stand part of the Bill."

Question put and negatived.

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted in the Bill."

Proposed words amended by leaving out the words "or placed under more than one body of managers."—(*Dr. Macnamara*).

Proposed words, as amended, inserted in the Bill.

Dr. Macnamara 650

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 1, line 10, after the word 'determined,' to insert the words 'after consultation with.'"—(*Dr. Macnamara*).

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted in the Bill."

July 14.]

Page

Mr. Bousfield 651
Mr. Ernest Gray 652
Mr. Yoxall 652
Mr. Cohen 653
Sir Michael Foster (*London University*) 654
Sir John Gorst 654
Mr. Bryce 655
Mr. Bond 655
Sir William Anson 655
Mr. Whitley 657

Question put—

The House divided :—Ayes, 86 ; Noes, 144. Division List No. 160.)

Mr. Sydney Buxton 659

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 1, line 10, to leave out the words 'council of each borough,' and insert the words 'local education authority.'"—(*Mr. Sydney Buxton.*)

Sir Wm. Anson 660

Question put—

The House divided :—Ayes, 158 ; Noes, 100. (Division List No. 161.)

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 1, line 11, after the word 'borough' to insert the words 'after consultation with the local education authority and.'"—*Mr. Peel.*

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 1, line 12, to leave out the words 'Provided that.'"—(*Mr. Peel.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Dr. Macnamara 663

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 1, line 12, to leave out the words 'three-fourths,' and insert the words 'one-third.'"—(*Dr. Macnamara*).

Question proposed, "That the words 'three-fourths' stand part of the Bill."

Mr. W. F. D. Smith (*Strand, Westminster*) 665
Mr. Ernest Gray 666
Lord Edmund Fitzmaurice (*Wiltshire, Cricklade*) 667
Sir William Anson... 668
Mr. Bryce 669
Mr. Bond 669
Mr. Bousfield 671
Mr. Sydney Buxton 674

Question put, and negatived.

Question put, "That the words 'one third' be there inserted."

The House divided :—Ayes, 110 ; Noes, 172. (Division List No. 162.)

July 15.] *Page*

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 1, line 12, after the last Amendment, to insert the words 'two-thirds.'"—(*Sir William Anson.*)

Question put, "That those words be there inserted in the Bill."

The House divided:—Ayes, 177; Noes, 105. (Division List No. 163.)

Mr. Mansfield 679

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 1, line 12, to leave out the word 'shall' and insert the word 'may.'"—(*Mr. Mansfield.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'shall' stand part of the Bill."

Sir William Anson 680
Mr. Lloyd-George 681
Dr. Macnamara 681

Question put—

The House divided:—Ayes, 176; Noes, 83. (Division List No. 164).

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 1, line 13, to leave out the words 'one-fourth' and insert the words 'one-third.'"—(*Sir William Anson.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Mr. A. J. Balfour... 683
Mr. Lough... 683

And, it being Midnight, further consideration of the Bill, as amended, stood adjourned.

Bill, as amended, to be further considered this day.

Naval Works (Portsmouth Barracks Site) Bill.—Ordered, that the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills do examine the Naval Works (Portsmouth Barracks Site) Bill with respect to compliance with the Standing Orders relative to Private Bills.—(*Mr. Pretyman.*) 684

Adjourned at five minutes after Twelve o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS: WEDNESDAY, 15TH JULY, 1903.

The House met at Two of the clock.

UNOPPOSED PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Alexandra Park and Palace Bill (BY ORDER). Read the third time, and passed 685

Bury and District Joint Water Board Bill [LORDS]; Scottish Ontario and Manitoba Land Company Bill [Lords].—Read a second time, and committed 685

Sutton Coldfield Corporation Bill [LORDS].—Reported from the Police and Sanitary Committee, with Amendments; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed 685

Question proposed, "That the words 'council of' stand part of the Bill."

July 15.]

Page

PETITIONS.

CRUELTY TO ANIMALS BILL.—Petition of the Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, in favour; to lie upon the Table 685

LICENSES.—Petition from Carlisle, for alteration of law; to lie upon the Table 685

LICENSING (SCOTLAND) ACTS AMENDMENT BILL.—Petition from St. Andrew's, Johnstone, for alteration; to lie upon the Table 685

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

HORSE BREEDING (ROYAL COMMISSION).—Copy presented, of Ninth Report of the Royal Commission on Horse Breeding, with Appendices [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 685

IMPERIAL REVENUE (COLLECTION AND EXPENDITURE) (GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND).—Return presented, relative thereto (ordered 31st March—*Mr. Joseph A. Pease*); to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. (No. 256.) ... 685

SUPERANNUATION ACT, 1887.—Copy presented, of Treasury Minute, dated 11th July, 1903, granting to Louis Charles Lepts, Sorting Clerk and Telegraphist, Liverpool Post Office, a retired allowance under the Act [by Act]; to lie upon the Table 686

PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS AMENDMENT ACT, 1890.—Copy presented, of Regulations made by the Local Government Board for Ireland as to issue of Stock by Urban Authorities [by Act]; to lie upon the Table 686

ALLOTMENTS (SCOTLAND).—Return presented, relative thereto (ordered 25th May; *Mr. Eugene Wason*); to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. (No. 257.) 686

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

LAUNDRY AND COOKERY LESSONS FOR FEMALE PRISONERS—FEMALE PRISON INSPECTORS.—Question, Mr. Flower (Bradford, W.); Answer, Mr. Akers Douglas 686

DISTRIBUTION OF NON-RESIDENT OUTDOOR RELIEF.—Question, Mr. Herbert Samuel (Yorkshire, Cleveland); Answer, Mr. Walter Long 687

EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS CARRIED BY BRITISH SHIPS.—Question, Colonel Denny (Kilmarnock Burghs); Answer, Mr. Gerald Balfour 687

BRITISH COLONIES—REVENUE FROM IMPORT DUTIES.—Question, Mr. Alfred Davies (Carmarthen Boroughs); Answer, Mr. Gerald Balfour 688

SAVINGS BANK DEPOSITS IN GREAT BRITAIN AND ABROAD.—Question, Mr. Markham (Nottinghamshire, Mansfield), Answer, Mr. Gerald Balfour ... 688

INCREASE IN COAL EXPORTS.—Question, Sir Joseph Lawrence (Monmouth Boroughs; Answer, Mr. Gerald Balfour 689

AMERICAN ALL-RAIL EXPORT RATES FOR WHEAT.—Question, Mr. Hugh Smith (Northumberland, Tyneside); Answer, Mr. Gerald Balfour ... 689

COMPETITIVE EXAMINATIONS FOR POSTAL APPOINTMENTS AT DUBLIN.—Question, Mr. Nannetti (Dublin, College Green); Answer, Mr. Austen Chamberlain 689

July 15.] Page

MANAGEMENT OF MALE DINING-ROOM AT DUBLIN TELEGRAPH OFFICE.—Question, Mr. Nannetti; Answer, Mr. Austen Chamberlain 690

GORDON-BENNET CUP—BREAKDOWN OF TELEGRAPHIC ARRANGEMENTS AT DUBLIN.—Question, Mr. Nannetti; Answer, Mr. Austen Chamberlain ... 690

WAGES OF AGRICULTURAL LABOURERS.—Question, Mr. D. A. Thomas (Merthyr Tydvil); Answer, Mr. Ailwyn Fellowes 691

CROWN *v.* STAPLETON, DELANEY, AND CARROLL—NOTICE OF CHANGE OF VENUE—JURY CHALLENGING.—Questions, Mr. Dillon (Mayo, E.) and Mr. P. J. O'Brien (Tipperary, N.); Answers, Mr. Wyndham 691

DISTRICT CONTRACTS FOR REGIMENTAL INSTITUTES.—Question, Sir Thomas Dewar (Tower Hamlets, St. George's); Answer, Mr. Brodrick 692

SOUTH AFRICAN WAR MEDAL FOR 2ND ROYAL SCOTS FUSILIERS.—Question, Mr. Pine (Aberdeen, N.); Answer, Mr. Brodrick 693

RECOMMENDATIONS OF COMMITTEE ON ARMY VETERINARY DEPARTMENT.—Question, Mr. Wingfield-Digby (Dorsetshire, N.); Answer, Mr. Brodrick . 693

SUGGESTED ROYAL COMMISSION ON PHYSICAL TRAINING IN ENGLAND AND WALES.—Question, Mr. Priestley (Grantham); Answer, Mr. A. J. Balfour 693

QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE.

YOUNG OFFICERS AND INDIAN SERVICE.—Question, Mr. Orr-Ewing (Ayr Burghs); Answer, The Financial Secretary to the War Office (Lord Stanley, Lancashire, Westhoughton) 694

POST OFFICE EMPLOYEES AND VOLUNTEER CAMPS.—Question, Mr. Crombie (Kincardineshire); Answer, The Postmaster-General (Mr. Austen Chamberlain, Worcestershire, E.) 694

DEVONPORT AND PORTSMOUTH DOCKYARDS.—Question, Sir Charles Dilke (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean); Answer, The Secretary to the Admiralty (Mr. Arnold-Forster, Belfast, W.) 695

ROSYTH.—Question, Mr. Edmund Robertson (Dundee); Answer, The Civil Lord of the Admiralty (Mr. Pretyman, Suffolk, Woodbridge) 695

ANNUAL COST OF PORTSMOUTH DOCKYARD.—Question, Mr. Buchanan (Perthshire, E.); Answer, Mr. Pretyman 696

TRANSVAAL DIAMOND ORDINANCE.—Question, Mr. Markham (Nottinghamshire, Mansfield); Answer, The Secretary of State for the Colonies (Mr. J. Chamberlain, Birmingham, W.) 696

ASSAM EXCISE ADMINISTRATION.—Question, Mr. Herbert Roberts (Denbighshire, W.); Answer, The Under Secretary of State for India (Earl Percy, Kensington, S.) 697

BRUSSELS SUGAR CONVENTION.—Question, Mr. Lough (Islington, W.); Answer, The Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs (Lord Cranborne, Rochester) 697

UGANDA RAILWAY.—Question, Mr. Samuel Evans (Glamorganshire, Mid.); Answer, Lord Cranborne 698

July 15.] Page

COMPARATIVE STATISTICS.—Question, Mr. Herbert Roberts; Answer, The President of the Board of Trade (Mr. Gerald Balfour, Leeds, Central) ... 699

PRICES OF WHEAT IN FRANCE AND THE UNITED KINGDOM.—Questions, Mr. Harris (Tynemouth) and Sir Edgar Vincent (Exeter); Answers, Mr. Gerald Balfour 699

COLD STORAGE OF FISH.—Question, Mr. Weir (Ross and Cromarty); Answer, Mr. Gerald Balfour 700

VACCINATION OFFICERS AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD INSPECTORS.—Question, Mr. Weir; Answer, The President of the Local Government Board (Mr. Walter Long, Bristol, S.)... 701

WICKLOW LAND CASES.—Question, Mr. James O'Connor (Wicklow, W.); Answer, The Chief Secretary for Ireland (Mr. Wyndham, Dover)... ... 701

LABOURERS' (IRELAND) ACTS.—Question, Mr. Thomas O'Donnell (Kerry, W.); Answer, Mr. Wyndham 701

THE IRISH LAND BILL.—Question, Mr. John Redmond (Waterford); Answer, The Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury (Mr. A. J. Balfour, Manchester, E.)... 702

THE INDIAN BUDGET.—Question, Mr. Herbert Roberts; Answer, Mr. A. J. Balfour 702

FORTH AND CLYDE CANAL.—Questions, Mr. Pirie (Aberdeen, N.), Mr. Gibson Bowles (Lynn Regis), and Mr. Eugene Wason (Clackmannan and Kinross); Answers, Mr. A. J. Balfour 702

THE PATRIOTIC FUND.—Question, Mr. Galloway (Manchester, S.W.); Answer, Mr. A. J. Balfour 704

THE FISCAL INQUIRY.—Questions, Mr. Black (Banffshire), Sir Wilfred Lawson (Cornwall, Camborne), Mr. Theodore Taylor (Lancashire, Radcliffe), Mr. Weir, Sir M. Hicks Beach (Bristol, W.), Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman (Stirling Burghs), Mr. Henry Hobhouse (Somersetshire, E.), Mr. Gibson Bowles, and Lord Hugh Cecil (Greenwich); Answers, Mr. A. J. Balfour ... 704

Burgh Police (Scotland) Bill.—Reported, with Amendments, from the Standing Committee on Law, etc.

Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 258.]

Minutes of the Proceedings of the Standing Committee to be printed. [No. 258.]

Bill, as amended (in the Standing Committee), to be considered upon Monday next, and to be printed. [Bill 277.] 709

SELECTION (STANDING COMMITTEES).—MR. HALSLEY reported from the Committee of Selection: That they had discharged the following Member from the Standing Committee on Law, and Courts of Justice, and Legal Procedure, Mr. Haldane; and had appointed in substitution, Mr. Munro Ferguson.

Report to lie upon the Table 710

July 15.] *Page*

STANDING COMMITTEES (CHAIRMEN'S PANEL).—SIR JAMES FERGUSSON reported from the Chairmen's Panel: That they had appointed Lord Edmund Fitzmaurice to act as Chairman of the Standing Committee for the consideration of Bills relating to Law, and Courts of Justice, and Legal Procedure, in the place of Mr. John Edward Ellis.

Report to lie upon the Table 710

NEW BILL.

Expiring Laws Continuance Bill.—"To continue various Expiring Laws," presented by Mr. Arthur Elliot; to be read a second time upon Monday next, and to be printed, [No. 278.] 710

SITTINGS OF THE HOUSE (EXEMPTION FROM THE STANDING ORDER).

Motion made, and Question put, "That the proceedings on consideration of the London Education Bill, as amended, if under discussion at Twelve o'clock this night, be not interrupted under the Standing Order (Sittings of the House)."—(*Mr. A. J. Balfour*).

The House divided:—Ayes, 185; Noes, 91. (Division List No. 165.) ... 710

London Education Bill.—As Amended, further considered.

On the second proviso to Sub-section 1 of Clause 2 (Provision as to management and sites of provided schools)—

"Provided also that due regard shall be had to the inclusion of women on the said bodies of managers."

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 1, line 15, to leave out the words 'provided also that' and insert the word 'but.'"—(*Mr. Peel.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Mr. Sydney Buxton (*Tower Hamlets, Poplar*) 713

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 1, line 15, to leave out from the last Amendment to the end of line 16, and insert the words 'not less than one-third of the managers appointed by each appointing authority shall be women.'"—(*Mr. Sydney Buxton.*)

Question proposed, "That the words 'due regard shall be had' stand part of the Bill."

Sir John Gorst (*Cambridge University*) 714
The Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Education (*Sir William Anson, Oxford University*) 715
Mr. Bryce (*Aberdeen, S.*) 715
Mr. Henry Hobhouse (*Somersetshire, E.*) 717
Mr. Yoxall (*Nottingham, W.*) 718
Mr. Bond (*Nottingham, E.*) 719
Mr. J. H. Lewis (*Flint Boroughs*) 719
Mr. Cohen (*Islington, E.*) 721
Mr. Emmott (*Oldham*) 722
The President of the Local Government Board (*Mr. Walter Long, Bristol, W.*) 723

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 1, line 16, after the word 'women,' to insert the words 'in the proportion of not less than one-third of the whole body of managers.'"—(*Mr. Bond.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 1, line 15, after the word 'had' to insert the words 'in selecting managers.'"—(*Mr. Peel.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Dr. Macnamara 724

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"After the last Amendment to insert the words 'and members chosen from the existing body of managers.'"—(*Dr. Macnamara.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted in the Bill."

Sir William Anson 724

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Amendment moved to the Bill—

"After the last Amendment to insert the words 'and, in the case of the first body of managers, also of members chosen from the then existing bodies of managers, and the Borough Council and the local education authority shall carry out any directions given by the Board of Education for the purpose of giving effect to this provision.'"—(*Mr. Peel.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"After the words last inserted to insert the words 'provided also that until new groups are arranged and new managers are appointed the existing groups of schools and the existing managers shall be continued.'"—(*Mr. Lough.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted in the Bill."

Sir William Anson 725
Mr. Bryce 725

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Mr. Lough 725

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 1, line 17, to leave out Sub-section (2)."—(*Mr. Lough.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out to the word 'be' in line 23, stand part of the Bill."

Sir William Anson 726
Mr. Sydney Buxton 726
Mr. Whitmore (Chelsea) 727
Dr. Macnamara 727
Mr. Harry Samuel (Tower Hamlets, Limehouse) 728
Captain Jessel (St. Pancras, S.) 728

Question put.

July 15.] *Page*

The House divided:—Ayes, 201; Noes, 104. (Division List No. 166.)

Sir William Anson 731

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 1, line 23, after the word 'shall,' to leave out to end of clause, and insert the words 'not make the order authorising the purchase unless they are satisfied that the concurrence of the council of the borough should be dispensed with.'"—(*Sir William Anson.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Mr. Bryce 731

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 1, line 26, at end, to add the words 'Provided that the site required for the enlargement of a public elementary school shall not be deemed to be a site required for a new public elementary school within the meaning of this sub-section and of Section eight of the principal Act.'"—(*Mr. Bryce.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted in the Bill."

Sir William Anson 732
Dr. Macnamara 732
Mr. Lough 733

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 1, line 26, at end, to insert the words "Provided that, except in the case of compulsory acquisition, the site required for the enlargement of a public elementary school shall not be deemed a site required for a new public elementary school within the meaning of this sub-section.'"—(*Sir William Anson.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Mr. Bryce 734

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"After the words last inserted to insert the words 'and of Section 8 of the principal Act.'"—(*Mr. Bryce.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted in the Bill."

Sir William Anson 734
Dr. Macnamara 734

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 111; Noes, 212. (Division List, No. 167.)

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 1, line 26, at end, to add the words '(3) Schools provided by the local education authority for blind, deaf, epileptic, and defective children, and any other schools, which, in the opinion of the Board of Education, are not of a local character, shall not be treated for the purposes of this section as public elementary schools.'"—(*Sir William Anson.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted in the Bill."

Dr. Macnamara 737

Question put, and agreed to.

Captain Jessel 757

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 1, line 27, to leave out Clause 3."—(*Captain Jessel.*)

Question proposed, "That the words of Clause 3, to the word 'proceedings' in line 28, stand part of the Bill."

Mr. Lough 739
Mr. Whitmore 739
Mr. Walter Long 739
Mr. Herbert Robertson (*Hackney, S.*) 740
Sir William Anson 741
Mr. Bryce 741
Mr. Samuel Evans (*Glamorganshire, Mid.*) 742
Dr. Macnamara 742

Question put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 120 ; Noes, 214. (Division List, No. 168.)

Mr. Mansfield (*Lincolnshire, Spalding*) 745

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 2, line 10, to leave out the word 'four' and insert the word 'seven.'"—(*Mr. Mansfield.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'four' stand part of the Bill."

Sir William Anson 747
Dr. Macnamara 747
Mr. Lloyd-George (*Carnarvon Boroughs*) 747

Question put.

The House divided :—Ayes 221 ; Noes 111. (Division List, No. 169.)

Col. Legge (*St. George's, Hanover Square*)... 753

Amendment proposed—

"In page 3, to leave out lines 14 and 15."—*Colonel Legge.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Bill."

Dr. Macnamara 754
Mr. Whitley (*Halifax*) 754
Sir Frederick Banbury 755
Mr. Bryce 755
Capt. Jessel 755
Sir William Anson 756

Question put, and agreed to.

Sir Joseph Dimsdale (*City of London*) 757

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 3, at the end of line 15, to insert the words 'The provisions of Section 5 and Sub-section 2 of Section 6 of the principal Act shall not be construed so as to subject any endowed elementary

July 15.] *Page*

school in the City of London not applying for a Parliamentary Grant or for aid from the local education authority to the control or management of the local education authority."—(*Sir Joseph Dimsdale.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted in the Bill."

Sir William Anson 757

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Amendments proposed to the Bill—

"In page 3, line 17, to leave out the words 'of Sub-section 1.'

"In page 3, line 19, to leave out the words 'enables the local authority to group,' and insert the words 'relates to.'"

"In page 3, line 20, to leave out the word 'them,' and insert the words 'the local education authority.'"—(*Sir William Anson.*)

Amendments agreed to.

Sir Joseph Dimsdale 758

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 3, after line 20, at the end, to insert the words 'Any scheme made or approved under Section 17 of the principal Act shall provide for the representation of the Mayor, Aldermen, and Commons of the City of London, in Common Council assembled, by at least two members on the Education Committee.'"—(*Sir Joseph Dimdale.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted in the Bill."

Sir William Anson 759
Mr. Alban Gibbs (*London*) 760
Sir William Tomlinson (*Preston*) 760
Mr. Samuel Evans... 760

Question put and negatived.

Sir William Anson 761

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 3, line 23, at end, to insert the words 'but the Board of Education may, on the application of the trustees of the endowment, direct that any money, which would be payable under the said Section 13 to the County Council, shall be applied in manner provided by a scheme made by the Board if the Board consider that it is expedient to make such a scheme with a view of preserving the benefits of the endowment to the locality for which those benefits were intended.'"—(*Sir William Anson.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted in the Bill."

Sir Michael Foster (*London University*) 762
Mr. Cripps (*Lancashire, Stretford*) 763
Mr. Bryce 764

Proposed Amendment to the Bill amended by inserting—

"In line 2, after the word 'endowment,' the words 'or of the local educational authority.'"—(*Mr. Bryce.*)

Mr. Bryce 764

Amendment proposed to the proposed Amendment to the Bill—

"In line 5, to leave out from the word 'scheme' to the end of the proposed Amendment."

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the proposed Amendment to the Bill.

Sir William Anson 766

Question put, and negatived.

Amendment proposed to the proposed Amendment to the Bill—

"After the word 'scheme' in line 5, to add the words 'in any such scheme due regard shall be had to the interests of the locality for which the benefits of the endowments were intended."—(*Sir William Anson.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there added to the proposed Amendment."

Mr. Cripps moved that the word "primarily" be inserted before the word "intended."

Proposed Amendment to the proposed Amendment to the Bill amended —

"By inserting after the word 'shall' the word 'primarily.'"—(*Mr. Cripps.*)

Proposed words, as amended, added to the proposed Amendment to the Bill.

Proposed words, as amended, there inserted in the Bill.

Dr. Macnamara 767

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 4, line 6, at the end, to insert the words 'There shall always be at least six women upon the Education Committee of the local education authority.'"—*Dr. Macnamara.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted in the Bill."

Sir William Anson 768
Mr. Bryce 768

Question put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 93 ; Noes, 176. (Division List No. 170).

And, it being after half-past Seven of the clock, further consideration of the Bill, as amended, stood adjourned till this Evening's Sitting.

EVENING SITTING.

ndon Education Bill.—As amended, further considered.

Dr. Macnamara 771

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 4, line 6, at the end, to insert the words '(10) The education committee of the local education authority shall transact all its ordinary business in public.'"—(*Dr. Macnamara.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted in the Bill.

Mr. Cohen ... 773
Mr. Yoxall ... 774
Sir William Anson ... 775
Mr. Causton (Southwark, S.) ... 776
Mr. Crooks (Woolwich) ... 776
Mr. Herbert Samuel (Yorkshire, Cleveland) ... 777
Sir Michael Foster ... 777
Mr. Walter Long ... 778
Mr. Sidney Buxton ... 778
Mr. Herbert Roberts (Denbighshire, W.) ... 779
Lord Edmund Fitzmaurice (Wiltshire, Cricklade) ... 779
Mr. Humphreys-Owen (Montgomeryshire) ... 779
Mr. Walter Long ... 780

Question put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 76 ; Noes, 156. (Division List, No. 171.)

Mr. Yoxall ... 783

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 4, line 6, at end, to insert the words '(10) The minutes of proceedings of the Education Committee of the local education authority shall be open to inspection by any ratepayer in London.'" —(*Mr. Yoxall.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted in the Bill."

Mr. Walter Long ... 784
Dr. Macnamara ... 785
Mr. Samuel Evans ... 786
Mr. Bull (Hammersmith) ... 786
Sir James Woodhouse (Huddersfield) ... 787
Mr. Lloyd-George ... 787
Mr. Walter Long ... 788
Mr. Bryce ... 789
Mr. Whitley ... 790
Mr. Samuel Evans ... 790
Mr. Lough ... 790
Mr. Walter Long ... 791
Mr. William Jones (Carnarvonshire, Arfon) ... 791

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Mr. Mansfield ... 792

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 4, line 6, at end, to add the words '(10) The managers of all public elementary schools shall not be elected for a longer period than three years, at the end of which period they shall be eligible for re-election.'"—(*Mr. Mansfield.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted in the Bill."

Proposed Amendment amended by leaving out the word "elected" in line 2, and inserting the word "appointed."—(*Sir William Anson.*)

Question put, and agreed to.

Mr. Mansfield ... 793

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"After the words last inserted to insert the words '(11) The local education authority shall have power to close any public elementary school which in their opinion is unnecessary on the grounds of economy, or the inefficiency of the teaching or of the premises.'"—(*Mr. Mansfield.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted in the Bill."

Sir William Anson 794

Question put, and negatived.

Mr. Lough 794

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"After the words last inserted, to insert the words '(11) No teacher shall be required as a condition of being appointed or continuing a teacher in any school or college aided or maintained by the local education authority to belong to any particular religious denomination, or to attend or abstain from attending any place of religious worship, or religious observance, or Sunday School.'"—(*Mr. Lough.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted in the Bill."

Sir William Anson 794
Mr. Bryce 795
Mr. George White (Norfolk, N. W.) 796
Mr. Lloyd-George 798
Mr. Whitmore 798
Mr. Lloyd George 799
Dr. Macnamara 800
Mr. Samuel Evans... 801
Mr. Moon (St. Pancras, N.) 802

Question put.

The House divided: Ayes, 88; Noes, 173. (Division List No. 172.)

Mr. Lloyd-George 803

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"After the words last inserted, to insert the words, '(10) In every school for education other than elementary aided by the local authority the authority shall be represented on the governing body in such proportions as will, as nearly as may be, correspond to the proportion which the aid given bears to the income from all other sources.'"—(*Mr. Lloyd-George.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted in the Bill."

Sir William Anson... 804

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 66; Noes, 152. (Division List No. 173.)

Mr. Lough 807

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"After the words last inserted, to insert the words, '(11) If at any time after the expiration of one year from the commencement of this Act it is represented to the Board of Education that there is in

July 16.] Page

any district an insufficient amount of school accommodation under public management for any grade of education, and the Board of Education are satisfied after inquiry that such is the case, the Board of Education shall direct the deficiency to be supplied in manner provided by Section sixteen of the principal Act.' "—(*Mr. Lough.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted in the Bill."

Sir William Anson... 808
Mr. J. H. Lewis 808
Mr. Samuel Evans 810

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 65; Noes, 137. (Division List No. 174.)

Mr. Soares (*Devonshire, Barnstable*) 811

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"After the words last inserted, to insert the words '(11) Notwithstanding anything contained in Section eight of the principal Act no school which was transferred to the School Board for London previous to the passing of this Act, shall be so re-transferred under that section and under Section twenty-four of the Elementary Education Act of 1870, as to be treated under this Act or the principal Act as a non-provided school.' "—(*Mr. Soares.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted in the Bill."

Sir William Anson... 814
Dr. Macnamara 814
Mr. Bryce 815

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Bill to be read the third time on Monday next, and to be printed. [Bill 279.]

NEW BILL.

TUBERCULOSIS (ANIMALS) COMPENSATION.—Bill to provide for payment of compensation to the owners of carcases of animals condemned after slaughter and destroyed by order of a magistrate on account of Tuberculosis, ordered to be be brought in by Mr. Ernest Gray, Sir Joseph Dimsdale, Mr. Field, Mr. Batty Langley, Mr. M'Arthur, Mr. Samuel Roberts, Sir Albert Rollit, Mr. William Rutherford, Mr. Schwann, and Mr. Tomkinson.

Tuberculosis (Animals) Compensation Bill.—"To provide for the payment of compensation to the owners of carcases of animals condemned after slaughter and destroyed by order of a magistrate on account of Tuberculosis," presented accordingly, and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Wednesday next, and to be printed. [Bill 280]... 816

Adjourned at ten minutes after One o'clock.

HOUSE OF LORDS: THURSDAY, 16th JULY, 1903.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Pontypridd Urban District Council Bill [H.L.]; Frinton-on-Sea Sea Defences Bill [H.L.].—Commons' Amendments considered, and agreed to 817

July 16.] Page

North Metropolitan Electric Power Supply Bill [H.L.].—Committed. The Committee to be proposed by the Committee of Selection 817

Great Western Railway Bill—The King's consent and the consent of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, in right of his Duchy of Cornwall, signified; and Bill reported, with Amendments 817

London United Tramways Bill.—Reported with Amendments 817

London, Tilbury, and Southend Railway Bill.—Reported, with Amendments 817

Great Northern, Piccadilly, and Brompton Railway (Various Powers) Bill.—The King's consent signified; and Bill reported, with Amendments 817

Harrow Road and Paddington Tramways Bill.—Reported from the Select Committee, with Amendments 817

Metropolitan Police Provisional Order Bill.—Report from the Select Committee, That the Committee had not proceeded with the consideration of the Bill, the Committee having found that the petitioners had no *locus standi* before them; read, and ordered to lie on the Table. The orders made on the 26th of June and Thursday last discharged; and Bill committed to a Committee of the Whole House 817

Dublin, Wicklow, and Wexford Railway Bill; Ebbw Vale Water and Improvement Bill; Western Valleys (Monmouthshire) Sewerage Board Bill.—Report from the Select Committee, That the Committee adjourned yesterday over this day 817

Dublin, Wicklow and Wexford Railway Bill; Ebbw Vale Water and Improvement Bill; Western Valleys (Monmouthshire) Sewerage Board Bill.—Report from the Committee of Selection, That the Marquess of Bath and the Lord Congleton be proposed to the House as members of the Select Committee on the said Bills in the place of the Earl of Haddington and the Lord Lamington; read and agreed to 818

Ulster and Connaught Light Railways Bill—Moved, that the Order made on the 16th of March last, "That no Private Bill brought from the House of Commons shall be read a second time after the 18th day of June next," be dispensed with, and that the Bill be now read 2^a; agreed to; Bill read 2^a accordingly, and committed 818

Wigan Corporation Tramways Bill.—Read 3^a, with the Amendments, and passed, and returned to the Commons 818

Middlesbrough Corporation Bill.—Read 3^a, with the Amendments; further Amendments made; Bill passed, and returned to the Commons 818

Alexandra Park and Palace Bill.—Brought from the Commons; read 1^a; and referred to the Examiners 818

Scottish American Mortgage Company, Limited, Bill [H.L.].—Returned from the Commons agreed to, with Amendments 818

Cardiff Railway Bill [H.L.]; Aston Manor Improvement Bill [H.L.].—Returned from the Commons agreed to, with Amendments; The said Amendments considered, and agreed to 818

July 16.] *Page*

Local Government Provisional Order (No. 16) Bill; Grindleford, Baslow, and Bakewell Railway Bill.—Returned from the Commons with the Amendments agreed to 818

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 9) Bill; Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 5) Bill.—Read 3ª (according to order), and passed 818

Pier and Harbour Provisional Orders (No. 5) Bill.—Amendment reported (according to order), and Bill to be read 3ª to-morrow 818

Glasgow Corporation (Police) Order Confirmation Bill [H.L.]; Irvine and District Water Board Order Confirmation Bill [H.L.].—Read 3ª (according to order), and passed, and sent to the Commons 819

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

TRADE REPORTS—ANNUAL SERIES.

No. 3031. Zanzibar (Pemba).
No. 3032. Persia (Kernan).
No. 3033. China (Pakhoi) 819

AFRICA, No. 8 (1903).—Report on Slavery and Free Labour in the British East Africa Protectorate 819

COMMERCIAL, No. 6 (1903).—Findings of the Permanent Commission established under Article VII. of the Sugar Convention of 5th March, 1902, and Report of the British delegate... 819

HORSE BREEDING.—Ninth Report of the Royal Commission on Horse Breeding 819

ARMY.—Memorandum by the Director-General, Army Medical Service, on the physical unfitness of men offering themselves for enlistment in the Army.

Presented [by Command], and ordered to lie on the Table 819

SUPERANNUATION.—Treasury Minute, dated 11th July, 1903, granting a retired allowance to Louis Charles Lepts, sorting clerk and telegraphist, Liverpool Post Office, under Section 2 of the Superannuation Act, 1887 819

PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS AMENDMENT ACT, 1890.—Regulations made by the Local Government Board for Ireland as to issue of stock by urban authorities 819

FACTORY AND WORKSHOP (SPECIAL EXCEPTIONS: MEAL HOURS, IRON AND STEEL FOUNDRIES IN SCOTLAND).—Order, dated 11th July, 1903, made by the Secretary of State for the Home Department in pursuance of Section 40 (4) of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, extending the special exceptions as to meal hours to male young persons employed in iron and steel foundries in Scotland 819

CRIMINAL LAW AND PROCEDURE (IRELAND) ACT, 1887.—Proclamation, dated 14th July, 1903, revoking the several proclamations mentioned in the schedule thereto 820

Laid before the House [pursuant to Act], and ordered to lie on the Table 820

LAND PURCHASE (IRELAND).—Return respecting. Laid before the House [pursuant to Order of the 3rd instant], and to be printed. (No. 165) ... 820

Page

Incest Bill; (Second Reading); Order of the Day for the Second Reading read

The Earl of Donoughmore 820

Moved, that the Bill be now read 2ª.—(*The Earl of Donoughmore.*)

The Lord Chancellor (*The Earl of Halsbury*) 822

Amendment moved—

"To omit the word 'now' in order to insert the words, 'this day six months.'"—(*The Lord Chancellor.*)

Lord Davey 823
Lord Tweedmouth 823

Motion, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

County Courts Jurisdiction Extension Bill; (Second Reading); Order of the day for the Second Reading read.

Lord Avebury 824

Moved, that the Bill be now read 2ª.—(*Lord Avebury.*)

The Lord Chancellor 826
Lord Thring 828
The Lord Chief Justice (*Lord Alverstone*) 829
Lord Davey 831
Lord Avebury 833

On Question, Bill read 2ª and committed to a Committee of the whole House on Thursday next.

Outdoor Relief (Pensioners) Bill; (Second Reading); Order of the day for the Second Reading read.

The Marquess of Granby 834

Moved, That the Bill be now read 2ª.—(*The Marquess of Granby.*)

Lord Lamington 835

Amendment moved—

"To leave out 'now' and to add at the end of the Motion 'this day three months.'"—(*Lord Lamington.*)

On Question whether "now" shall stand part of the Motion, resolved in the negative; and Bill to be read 2ª this day three months.

Elementary Education (Amendment) Bill.—Read 3ª (according to Order), and passed 838

Lunacy Acts (Amendment) London Bill [H.L.].—Read 3ª (according to Order): Amendment (Privilege) made: Bill passed and sent to the Commons 838

Pistols Bill.—Amendments reported (according to Order), and Bill to be read 3ª to-morrow 838

Public Offices (Dublin) Bill.—Second Reading (which stands appointed for this day) put off till to-morrow 838

House adjourned at ten minutes before Six o'clock, till to-morrow, a quarter past Four o'clock.

July 16.] *Page*

HOUSE OF COMMONS: THURSDAY, 16TH JULY, 1903.

The House met at Two of the Clock.

UNOPPOSED PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

PROVISIONAL ORDERS BILL [LORDS] (STANDING ORDERS APPLICABLE THERETO COMPLIED WITH.—Mr. Speaker laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, that, in the case of the following Bill, originating in the Lords, and referred on the First Reading thereof, Standing Orders which are applicable thereto have been complied with, viz. :—Education Board Provisional Order Confirmation (London) Bill [Lords.] 838

Ordered, That the Bill be read a second time to-morrow 839

PRIVATE BILLS (NO STANDING ORDERS APPLICABLE).—Mr. Speaker laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, that, in the case of the following Bill, referred, pursuant to the Order of the House of the 10th day of July, no Standing Orders are applicable, viz. :—London School Board (Hilldrop Road Site) Bill 839

Broadstairs Gas Bill, Hyde, Corporation Bill, Leigh Corporation.—Lords' Amendments considered, and agreed to 839

London, Brighton, and South Coast Railway Bill [LORDS] (King's consent signified).—Read the third time, and passed, with Amendments 839

South Lancashire Tramways Bill [LORDS].—Read the third time, and passed, with Amendments 839

Carmarthenshire Electric Power Bill [LORDS], Fife Electric Power Bill [Lords].—As amended, considered ; to be read the third time 839

Tramways Orders Confirmation (No. 1) Bill [LORDS].—Copy ordered, "of Memorandum stating the nature of the proposals contained in the Provisional Orders included in the Tramways Orders Confirmation (No. 1) Bill [Lords]."—(*Mr. Bonar Law*). 839

Chatham and District Light Railways Bill [LORDS], Rochester Corporation Tramways and Improvements Bill [Lords].—Reported with Amendments; Reports to lie upon the Table, and to be printed 839

PRIVATE BILLS (GROUP H.)—Sir Augustus Godson reported from the Committee on Group H. of Private Bills: That, for the convenience of parties, they had adjourned till Tuesday next, at half-past eleven of the clock.

Report to lie upon the Table 839

Willesden Urban District Council Bill [LORDS].—Reported, with Amendments, from the Police and Sanitary Committee. Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed 840

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.—That they have agreed to—

Pier and Harbour Provisional Orders (No. 4) Bill, with an Amendment.

Pier and Harbour Provisional Orders (No. 2) Bill; Pier and Harbour Provisional Orders (No. 3) Bill; Wood Green Urban District Council Bill; Baker Street and Waterloo Railway (Transfer) Bill now Baker Street and Waterloo Railway Bill; Walker and Wallsend Union Gas Bill; Midland Great Western Railway of Ireland Bill, with Amendments... 840

Pier and Harbour Provisional Orders (No. 2) Bill; Pier and Harbour Provisional Orders (No. 3) Bill. Lords' Amendments to be considered to-morrow 840

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACTS (SPECIAL EXCEPTIONS—MEAL HOURS IN IRON AND STEEL FOUNDRIES IN SCOTLAND).—Copy presented, of Order, dated 14th July, 1903, made by the Secretary of State for the Home Department in pursuance of Section 40 (4) of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, extending the special exceptions as to meal hours to male young persons employed in iron and steel foundries in Scotland [by Act]; to lie upon the Table 840

CRIMINAL LAW AND PROCEDURE (IRELAND) ACT, 1887 (PROCLAMATION).—Copy presented, of a Proclamation, dated 14th July, 1903, revoking the several proclamations mentioned in the schedule thereto [by Act]; to lie upon the Table 840

ARMY (PHYSICAL CONDITION OF RECRUITS).—Copy presented, of a Memorandum by the Director-General, Army Medical Service, on the physical unfitness of men offering themselves for enlistment in the Army [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 840

Paper laid upon the Table by the Clerk of the House—

CALEDONIAN CANAL.—Copy of Ninety-eighth Report of the Commissioners [by Act]; to be printed. [No. 259.] 841

RIFLE RANGES.—Address for "Return of the number of Rifle Ranges in the United Kingdom, giving the situation, range, and number of targets available on each Range; the number of Government Ranges that have been closed during the last year and the number that have been opened; and the number and description of Ranges being constructed."—(*Mr. Warner*) 841

TRADE (COLONIES AND UNITED KINGDOM).—Return ordered, "showing the Trade of the various British Colonies and Possessions, inclusive of bullion and specie, with the United Kingdom, other British Possessions, and foreign countries during each of the years 1890–1900, in the following form:—

Imports.					Exports.				
British Colonies and Possessions.	From the United Kingdom.	From British Possessions.	From foreign countries.	From all countries.	To the United Kingdom.	To British Possessions.	To foreign countries.	To all countries.	British Colonies and Possessions.

—(*Mr. Fuller.*)

July 16.] *Page*

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

LOAN FUND REGISTRATION IN IRELAND.—Question, Mr. Dillon (Mayo, E.); Answer, Mr. Wyndham 841

ALLEGED ASSAULT ON MRS. FITZGERALD.—Question, Mr. William Abraham (Cork County, N.); Answer, Mr. Wyndham 842

CONSTRUCTION OF THE CHIROMO AND BLANTYRE RAILWAY.—Question, Mr. Weir (Ross and Cromarty); Answer, Lord Cranborne 842

TRADE OF SOMALILAND, BRITISH EAST AND CENTRAL AFRICA AND UGANDA. —Question, Mr. John Ellis (Nottinghamshire, Rushcliffe); Answer, Lord Cranborne 843

GRANTS-IN-AID OF SOMALILAND, BRITISH EAST AFRICA, ETC.—Question, Mr. John Ellis; Answer, Lord Cranborne... 843

INDIAN IRRIGATION COMMISSION—RECOMMENDATION.—Question, Mr. Weir; Answer, Lord George Hamilton 844

INCREASE OF DEPOSITS IN POST OFFICE SAVINGS BANKS IN INDIA.—Question, Mr. Weir; Answer, Lord George Hamilton 844

CAPITALISED VALUE OF STATE RAILWAYS AND CANALS.—Question, Mr. Weir; Answer, Lord George Hamilton 844

INDIAN CURRENCY—SOVEREIGNS AND GOLD RESERVE.—Question, Sir John Leng (Dundee); Answer, Lord George Hamilton 845

AREA UNDER CROPS IN INDIA.—Question, Mr. Weir; Answer, Lord George Hamilton 846

MOTOR-CAR TRANSPORT IN INDIA.—Question, Mr. Weir; Answer, Lord George Hamilton 847

CUNARD STEAMSHIP COMPANY AND THE NEW ZEALAND MAILS.—Question, Mr. Alfred Davies (Carmarthen Boroughs); Answer, Mr. Austen Chamberlain 847

CHINESE MAILS—TRANS-SIBERIAN ROUTE.—Question, Mr. Louis Sinclair (Essex Romford); Answer; Mr. Austen Chamberlain 848

REDUCTION OF LIGHT DUES IN THE UNITED STATES.—Question, Sir Thomas Dewar (Tower Hamlets, St. George's); Answer, Mr. Gerald Balfour ... 848

TOTAL VALUE OF IMPORTS FROM FOREIGN COUNTRIES INTO BRITISH POSSESSIONS.—Question, Mr. Herbert Samuel (Yorkshire, Cleveland); Answer, Mr. Gerald Balfour 849

EXPORTS OF COTTON PIECE GOODS IN 1872 AND 1902.—Question, Mr. Runciman (Dewsbury); Answer, Mr. Gerald Balfour 849

NEW ROAD FROM THE MALL TO CHARING CROSS.—Question, Sir Henry Fowler (Wolverhampton, E.); Answer, Mr. Victor Cavendish 849

PUNISHMENT OF HABITUAL OFFENDERS—AMENDMENT OF LAW.—Question, Mr. Talbot (Oxford University); Answer, Mr. Akers Douglas 850

PRIVATE EXECUTIONS—EXTORTED CONFESSIONS.—Questions, Mr. H. D. Greene, (Shrewsbury), and Col. Wyndham Murray (Bath); Answers, Mr. Akers Douglas 850

APPOINTMENT OF PRISON COMMISSIONER.—Question, Mr. Tennant (Berwickshire); Answer, Mr. Akers Douglas 851

VIVISECTION EXPERIMENTS—PRESENCE OF GOVERNMENT INSPECTOR.—Question, Dr. Shipman (Northampton); Answer, Mr. Akers Douglas... 852

VIOLATION OF CONDITIONS OF VIVISECTION LICENCES.—Questions, Dr. Shipman; Answers, Mr. Akers-Douglas 852

ILLNESS AT NORWOOD POOR LAW SCHOOLS.—Question, Sir John Gorst Cambridge University); Answer, Mr. Walter Long... 852

NEW POOR LAW SCHOOLS FOR POPLAR.—Question, Sir John Gorst; Answer, Mr. Walter Long 853

FISCAL INQUIRY—DECREASE IN AGRICULTURAL POPULATION.—Question, Mr. D. A. Thomas (Merthyr Tydvil); Answer, Mr. Walter Long 853

ANNUAL LEAVE OF CUSTOMS ASSISTANT CLERKS.—Question, Mr. Claude Hay (Shoreditch, Hoxton); Answer, Mr. Elliot 854

IRISH LAND BILL—BANKRUPT OWNERS.—Question, Mr. T. W. Russell (Tyrone, S.); Answer, Mr. Atkinson 854

IMPROVED LANDING FACILITIES AT KELLS, CO. KERRY.—Question, Mr. Boland (Kerry, S.); Answer, Mr. Wyndham... 855

LAND PURCHASE ACTS—REDEMPTION OF TITHE RENT CHARGES.—Question, Mr. Butcher (York); Answer, Mr. Wyndham 855

CAR FARE PAID BY POLICE FROM LETTERFRACK TO CLIFDEN.—Question, Mr. O'Malley (Galway, Connemara); Answer, Mr. Wyndham 855

MARRIED NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS—OFFICERS DETACHED FROM THEIR REGIMENTS—MONEY IN LIEU OF RATIONS.—Question, Mr. Field (Dublin, St. Patrick); Answer, Lord Stanley 856

RETURN HOME OF REGIMENTS WHO HAVE SERVED THROUGH WHOLE OF SOUTH AFRICAN WAR.—Question, Sir Alfred Hickman (Wolverhampton, W.); Answer, Mr. Brodrick 856

GORDON HIGHLANDERS BAND AT SOUTHPORT.—Question, Mr. Marshall Hall (Lancashire, Southport); Answer, Mr. Brodrick 857

GENERAL AND SUGAR EXPORTS FROM THE WEST INDIAN COLONIES.—Question, Mr. Lough (Islington, W.); Answer, Mr. J. Chamberlain 858

REPRINT OF DISCUSSIONS ON PREFERENTIAL TARIFFS AT COLONIAL CONFERENCES.—Question, Mr. Freeman Thomas (Hastings); Answer, Mr. J. Chamberlain 858

MERCHANDISE MARKS ACT AND FOREIGN IMPORTS INTO THE COLONIES.—Question, Mr. D. A. Thomas; Answer, Mr. J. Chamberlain 859

BRITISH LOCOMOTIVES FOR CANADA.—Question, The Master of Elibank (Edinburgh, Midlothian); Answer, Mr. J. Chamberlain 859

July 16.] Page

QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE.

THE CAPE RAGGING SCANDAL.—Questions, Mr. Swift MacNeill (Donegal, S.) and Mr. Flavin (Kerry, N.); Answers, The Secretary of State for War (Mr. Brodrick, Surrey, Guildford) 859

THE CASE OF LIEUTENANT PRIOR.—Question, Mr. Swift MacNeill; Answer, Mr. Brodrick 861

ALLEGED MOCK COURT-MARTIAL ON THE "STAFFORDSHIRE."—Question, Mr. Swift MacNeill; Answer, Mr. Brodrick 861

PORTHCAWL RIFLE RANGE.—Question, Mr. Fuller (Wiltshire, Westbury); Answer, The Financial Secretary to the War Office (Lord Stanley, Lancashire, Westhoughton) 861

NORTH DEVON VOLUNTEERS—CAMP ALLOWANCES.—Question, Mr. Soares (Devonshire, Barnstaple); Answer, Mr. Brodrick 861

SOUTH AFRICAN GARRISON—LINKED BATTALION SYSTEM.—Questions, Sir Charles Dilke (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean); Answers, Mr. Brodrick 862

THE CONDEMNED ARMY RATIONS.—Questions, Mr. Keir Hardie (Merthyr Tydvil); Answers, Lord Stanley 862

THE FISCAL INQUIRY.—Questions, Mr. Black (Banffshire) and Mr. Alfred Davies (Carmarthen Boroughs); Answers, The Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury (Mr. A. J. Balfour, Manchester, E.) 863

GERMAN TRADE WITH CANADA.—Question, Mr. Black; Answer, The Secretary of State for the Colonies (Mr. J. Chamberlain, Birmingham, W.) 864

HONG KONG POST OFFICE.—Question, Mr. Weir; Answer, Mr. J. Chamberlain 865

GOVERNORSHIP OF HONG KONG.—Question, Mr. Weir; Answer, Mr. J. Chamberlain 865

CABLE BETWEEN CEYLON AND THE COCOS ISLANDS.—Question, Mr. Flower (Bradford, W.); Answer, The Under Secretary of State for India (Earl Percy, Kensington, S.) 865

CAIRO LUNATIC ASYLUM.—Question, Mr. Weir; Answer, Mr. A. J. Balfour... 866

BRITISH TRADE WITH ROUMANIA.—Question, Mr. Hoult (Cheshire, Wirrall); Answer, Mr. A. J. Balfour 866

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND TRADE.—Question, Mr. Hoult; Answer, The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr. Ritchie, Croydon) 867

POST OFFICE WAGES—COMMITTEE OF INQUIRY.—Question, Mr. Nannetti (Dublin, College Green); Answer, The Postmaster-General (Mr. Austen Chamberlain, Worcestershire, E.) 867

CABLE CHARGES BETWEEN INDIA AND CHINA.—Question, Mr. Flower; Answer, Mr. Austen Chamberlain 868

LORD CLANRICARDE'S TENANTS.—Question, Mr. Roche (Galway, E.); Answer, The Chief Secretary for Ireland (Mr. Wyndham, Dover) 868

INNISHLYRE HARBOUR.—Question, Dr. Ambrose (Mayo, W.); Answer, Mr. Wyndham 868

SLIGO EXTRA POLICE COST.—Question, Mr. O'Dowd (Sligo, S.); Answer, Mr. Wyndham 868

MARQUESS OF ELY'S ESTATE.—Question, Mr. T. W. Russell (Tyrone, S.); Answer, Mr. Wyndham 869

IRISH EVICTED TENANTS.—Question, Mr. Delany (Queen's County, Ossory); Answer, Mr. Wyndham 869

ROYAL COMMISSION ON THE WAR.—Question, Mr. Pirie (Aberdeen, N.); Answer, Mr. A. J. Balfour 869

HOLIDAY SCHEME IN THE DUBLIN POST OFFICE.—Question, Mr. Nannetti; Answer, Mr. Austen Chamberlain 870

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.—Questions, Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman (Stirling Burghs), Mr. John Redmond (Waterford), Mr. Lough (Islington, W.), Mr. Winston Churchill (Oldham), Mr. James Lowther (Kent, Thanet), and Mr. T. W. Russell; Answers, Mr. A. J. Balfour 870

SUPPLY [17TH ALLOTTED DAY].

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. J. W. LOWTHER (Cumberland, Penrith) in the Chair.]

ARMY ESTIMATES, 1903-4.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a sum, not exceeding £331,500, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the Charge for the Salaries and Miscellaneous Charges of the War Office, which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1904."

Mr. Pirie (Aberdeen, N.) 873

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That Item A (Salaries) be reduced by £100, in respect of the Salary of the Secretary of State for War." —(*Mr. Pirie.*)

The Secretary of State for War (Mr. Brodrick, Surrey, Guildford) 881
Mr. Charles Hobhouse (Bristol, E.) 885
Mr. Winston Churchill (Oldham) 888
Sir Charles Dilke (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean) 892
Mr. Brodrick 899
Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman (Stirling Burghs) 916
Mr. Beckett (Yorkshire, N.R., Whitby) 920
Mr. Munro Ferguson (Leith Burghs) 924
Sir Frederick Rasch (Essex, Chelmsford) 925
Mr. Harwood (Bolton) 928
Mr. Llewellyn (Somersetshire, N.) 932
Mr. Swift MacNeill (Donegal, S.) 933

And, it being half-past Seven of the clock, the Chairman left the Chair to make his Report to the House.

Committee report Progress; to sit again this evening.

July 17.] *Page*

EVENING SITTING.

Gas and Water Confirmation Bill [LORDS].—Read a second time, and committed 942

SUPPLY [17TH ALLOTTED] DAY.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. J. W. LOWTHER (Cumberland, Penrith) in the Chair.]

ARMY ESTIMATES, 1903–4.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a sum, not exceeding £331,500, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the charge for salaries and miscellaneous charges of the War Office, which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1904.

Whereupon Motion made, and Question proposed, "That Item A (Salaries) be reduced by £100, in respect of the salary of the Secretary of State for War."—(*Mr. Pirie.*)

Mr. Swift MacNeill 942
Mr. Brodrick 947
Mr. Labouchere (*Northampton*) 951
Mr. Brodrick 954
Major Seely (*Isle of Wight*) 955
Sir A. Hayter (*Walsall*) 956
Mr. Guest (*Plymouth*) 957
Mr. Keir Hardie (*Merthyr Tydvil*)... 959
Mr. Cust (*Southwark, Bermondsey*) 962
Mr. Maconachie (*Aberdeenshire, E.*) 964
The Financial Secretary to the War Office (*Lord Stanley, Lancashire, Westhoughton*)... 966
Mr. Buchanan (*Perthshire, E.*) 970

And, it being midnight, the Chairman left the Chair to make his Report to the House.

Committee report Progress ; to sit again on Monday next.

Adjourned at five minutes after Twelve o'clock.

HOUSE OF LORDS: FRIDAY, 17TH JULY, 1903.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

The LORD CHANCELLOR acquainted the House that the Clerk of the Parliaments had laid upon the Table the Certificates from the Examiners that the further Standing Orders applicable to the following Bills have been complied with: Croydon and District Electric Tramways; Castleblayney, Keady, and Armagh Railway (Extension of Time).

The same were ordered to lie on the Table 973

Western Valleys (Monmouthshire) Sewerage Board Bill.—A witness ordered to attend the Select Committee 973

Beckenham Urban District Council Bill.—Reported from the Select Committee, with Amendments 973

July 17.] *Page*

South Lancashire Tramways Bill [H.L.]; Didcot, Newbury, and Southampton Railway Bill [H.L.].—Returned from the Commons agreed to, with Amendments 973

London, Brighton and South Coast Railway Bill [H.L.]; Mersey Docks and Harbour Board Bill [H.L.].—Returned from the Commons agreed to, with Amendments. The said Amendments considered and agreed to ... 973

Broadstairs Gas Bill; Hyde Corporation Bill; Leigh Corporation Bill; Great Northern Railway Bill; Metropolitan District Railway (Various Powers) Bill; Midland and Belfast and Northern Counties Railways Bill.—Returned from the Commons with the Amendments agreed to 973

Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (No. 3) Bill; Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (No. 5) Bill; Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (No 7) Bill.—Moved, That the order made on the 16th March last, "That no Provisional Order Confirmation Bill brought from the House of Commons shall be read a second time after the 18th day of June next," be dispensed with, and that the Bills be now read 2ª; agreed to; Bills read 2ª accordingly 973

Lanarkshire Tramways Order Confirmation Bill [H.L.]. Read 3ª (according to Order).—Amendments made; Bill passed, and sent to the Commons 974

Drainage and Improvement of Lands (Ireland) Provisional Order Bill.—Moved, That the order made on the 16th day of March last, "That no Provisional Order Confirmation Bill brought from the House of Commons shall be read a second time after the 18th day of June next," be dispensed with, and that the Bill be now read 2ª; agreed to; Bill read 2ª accordingly, and committed to a Committee of the Whole House on Tuesday next ... 974

Pier and Harbour Provisional Orders (No. 5) Bill.—Read 3ª (according to Order), with the Amendment, and passed, and returned to the Commons... 974

Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (No. 3) Bill; Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (No. 7) Bill.—Committed to a Committee of the Whole House on Tuesday next 974

Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (No. 5) Bill.—Committed: The Committee to be proposed by the Committee of Selection 974

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

TREATY SERIES, No. 11 (1903).—Accession of Denmark to the International Convention of 9th September, 1886, establishing an International Union for the protection of literary and artistic works, and also to the additional Act and Declaration, signed at Paris, 4th May, 1896. (1st July, 1903) ... 974

NATIONAL EDUCATION (IRELAND).—Sixty-ninth Report of the Commissioners of National Education in Ireland, for the year 1902 974

COLONIES (ANNUAL).—No 389. Sierra Leone; Report for 1902 974

TRINIDAD.—Report of the Commission of Inquiry into the recent disturbances at Port of Spain, Trinidad. Papers relating to the recent disturbances at Port of Spain, Trinidad; Presented (by Command), and ordered to lie on the Table 975

July 17.] *Page*

UNIVERSITIES (SCOTLAND) ACT.—Annual Report on the state of the finances of the University of Glasgow, under the provisions of Section 30 of the Universities (Scotland) Act, 1889 975

PUBLIC RECORDS (POST OFFICE).—Fourth Schedule, containing a list and particulars of classes of documents existing or accruing in the Office of His Majesty's Postmaster-General which are not considered of sufficient public value to justify their preservation in the Public Record Office.

Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table ... 975

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 5) Bill.—House in Committee (according to Order); Bill reported without Amendment; Standing Committee negatived. Bill to be read 3ª on Monday next 975

THE ACCESSION OATH.

Lord Braye... 975

THE POLITICAL CONDITION OF MALTA.

The Marquess of Ripon 975
The Secretary for Scotland (*Lord Balfour of Burleigh*) 976

Motor-Cars Bill [H.L.].—House in Committee (according to Order).

[THE EARL OF MORLEY in the Chair.]

Clause 1.

The Earl of Wemyss 976

Amendment moved—

"In page 1, line 5, after 'any' to insert the words 'driver of a motor-car when driving through towns, villages, or populous places, turning corners, or passing branch roads, shall exceed the ordinary speed in like circumstances of horse conveyances, or, when passing or meeting any horse-drawn vehicle, shall not slow down, and, if requested, stop so as not to frighten the horse or horses drawing such vehicle; and if any.'"—(*The Earl of Wemyss.*)

Lord Balfour of Burleigh 979

On Question, Amendment negatived.

Lord Heneage 980

Amendment moved—

"In page 1, line 5, after the word 'drives' to insert the words 'or, being the owner, is present and permits to be driven.'"—(*Lord Heneage.*)

Lord Balfour of Burleigh 981
Earl Spencer 982
The Earl of Jersey 982
Lord Burghclere 983
The Lord Chancellor (*The Earl of Halsbury*) 983
The Earl of Camperdown... 983
Lord Montagu of Beaulieu 984

On Question, their Lordships divided: Contents, 17; Non-Contents, 95.

July 17.]

Page
The Earl of Jersey 985
The Lord Chancellor 985
The Marquess of Bath 986

Amendment moved—

"In page 1, line 5, after the word 'highway' to insert the words 'or on any roadway to which the public have, or are granted, access.'"—(*The Marquess of Bath.*)

Lord Balfour of Burleigh... 986

Amendment, as amended, agreed to.

The Earl of Camperdown 987

Amendment moved—

"In page 1, line 6, after the word 'recklessly,' to insert the words 'or at a speed exceeding twenty miles an hour.'"—(*The Earl of Camperdown.*)

Lord Herries 990
Earl of Mayo 991
Lord Kelvin 991
Lord Balfour of Burleigh 992
The Earl of Feversham 996
Lord Stanmore 996
The Marquess of Granby 997
Earl Spencer 997
The Earl of Rosebery 998

On Question, their Lordships divided :—Contents, 14; Non-Contents, 111.

Lord Heneage 999
Lord Balfour of Burleigh... 999
The Earl of Rosslyn 1000

Amendment moved—

"In page 1, line 9, to leave out the words 'or which might be expected to be.'"—(*The Earl of Rosslyn.*)

Lord Balfour of Burleigh 1000

Amendment, by leave of the Committee, withdrawn.

The Earl of Camperdown 1001

Amendment moved—

"In page 1, line 10, after the word 'highway,' to insert the words 'or when the car is stationary, owing to causes other than a block in the traffic, continues to keep the engine in motion after he has been requested to stop it.'"—(*The Earl of Camperdown.*)

Lord Balfour of Burleigh 1002

Amendment, by leave of the Committee, withdrawn.

The Earl of Camperdown 1002

Amendment moved—

"After Sub-section (1) to insert the following new sub-section—'if a driver of a motor-car or any other person resists or obstructs a police constable in the execution of his duty under this section, or if

July 17.] *Page*

he does not stop the motor-car and keep it stationary as long as may be reasonably necessary when requested by a police constable or any person having charge of a horse, or of sheep or of cattle, or on such constable or person holding up his hand as a signal for that purpose, he shall be guilty of an offence under this Act."—(*The Earl of Camperdown.*).

Lord Balfour of Burleigh 1002

Amendment, by leave of the Committee, withdrawn.

The Earl of Rosslyn 1003

Amendment moved—

"In page 1, line 12, after the word 'constable,' to insert the words 'in uniform.'"—(*Earl of Rosslyn.*)

Lord Balfour of Burleigh 1003

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

The Earl of Camperdown 1004

Amendment moved—

"In page 1, lines 13 and 14, to leave out the words 'within his view,' and to insert the words 'if such car have no mark of registration, and if such driver be unknown to him and refuses to give his name and address.'"—(*The Earl of Camperdown.*)

Lord Balfour of Burleigh 1004

Amendment, by leave of the Committee, withdrawn

The Earl of Camperdown 1004

Amendment moved—

"In page 1, line 15, to leave out the words 'any car who commits,' and to insert the words 'a motor-car charged with.'"—(*The Earl of Camperdown.*)

Lord Balfour of Burleigh 1005

Amendment, by leave of the Committee, withdrawn.

Drafting Amendment agreed to.

Clause 1, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 2.

The Earl of Dartmouth 1005

Amendment moved—

"In page 1, line 25, after the word 'them' to insert the words 'and no car shall be registered for ordinary road work capable of going more than thirty miles an hour on the flat.'"—(*The Earl of Dartmouth.*)

Lord Tweedmouth 1006
Lord Kelvin 1008
Lord Balfour of Burleigh 1009
The Earl of Camperdown 1010

July 17.] *Page*

Amendment moved—

"In page 1, line 28, to leave out the words 'or on a,' and to insert the words 'and on any,' and to leave out the words 'or on both.'"—(*The Earl of Camperdown.*)

Lord Balfour of Burleigh 1010

Amendment, by leave of the Committee, withdrawn.

Lord Herries 1010

Amendment moved—

"In page 2, line 3, to leave out the words 'five shillings' and insert the words 'one pound.'"—(*Lord Herries.*)

Lord Balfour of Burleigh 1010
Lord Herries 1011
The Marquess of Granby 1011

Amendment, by leave of the Committee, withdrawn.

The Earl of Rosslyn 1011

Amendment moved—

"In page 2, line 8, after the word 'distinguishable' to insert the words 'except from dust or mud.'"—(*The Earl of Rosslyn.*)

Lord Balfour of Burleigh 1012

Amendment, by leave of the Committee, withdrawn.

Clause 2, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 3.

Amendment moved—

"In page 2, lines 10 and 11, to leave out the words 'for hire or reward.'"—(*Lord Balfour of Burleigh.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Lord Ellenborough 1012

Amendment moved—

"In page 2, line 13, after the word 'reward' to insert the words 'no such licence shall be granted to any person under the age of sixteen.'"—(*Lord Ellenborough.*)

Lord Balfour of Burleigh 1013

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment moved—

"In page 2, line 13, after the word 'reward' insert the words 'such licence must be produced when demanded by a police constable.''—(*The Earl of Camperdown.*)

Amendments agreed to.

Lord Heneage 1013

Amendment moved—

"In page 2, line 16, to leave out the word 'shall' and insert the word 'may.'"—(*Lord Heneage*).

July 17.] Page

Lord Balfour of Burleigh 1014

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

Consequential Amendment agreed to.

Lord Tweedmouth 1015

Amendment moved—

"In page 2, line 18, after the word 'it' to insert the words 'and who produces a certificate signed by the chief of the police of such county or county borough of his competence to drive a motor-car.'"—(*Lord Tweedmouth.*)

The Earl of Rosslyn 1017
Lord Balfour of Burleigh 1017

On Question, their Lordships divided: Contents, 12; Non-Contents, 59.

Lord Balfour of Burleigh 1019

House resumed; and to be again in Committee on Tuesday next.

VOLUNTEER RANGES.

The Earl of Dartmouth 1019
The Under Secretary of State for War (*The Earl of Hardwicke*) 1019

Pistols Bill.—Order of the day for the Third Reading read, and discharged ... 1020

Public Offices (Dublin) Bill [SECOND READING].—Order of the day for the Second Reading read.

The Earl of Denbigh 1020

Moved, the Bill be now read 2^a.—(*The Earl of Denbigh.*)

On Question, Bill read 2^a, and committed to a Committee of the Whole House on Tuesday next.

House adjourned at twenty minutes before Eight o'clock, to Monday next, a quarter before Eleven o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS: FRIDAY, 17TH JULY, 1903.

The House met at Twelve of the Clock.

UNOPPOSED PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

PROVISIONAL ORDER BILLS [LORDS] (STANDING ORDERS APPLICABLE THERETO COMPLIED WITH).—MR. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bill, originating in the Lords, and referred on the First Reading thereof, the Standing Orders which are applicable thereto have been complied with—viz., Tramways Orders Confirmation (No. 1) Bill [Lords].

Ordered, That the Bill be read a second time upon Monday next 1021

Great Northern Railway Bill; Metropolitan District Railway (Various Powers) Bill; Midland and Belfast and Northern Counties Railways Bill.—Lords' Amendments considered, and agreed to 1021

July 17.]

Page

Didcot, Newbury, and Southampton Railway Bill [LORDS].—Read the third time, and passed, with Amendments 1021

Mersey Docks and Harbour Board Bill [LORDS] (King's Consent, on behalf of the Duchy of Lancaster, signified).—Read the third time, and passed, with Amendments 1021

Derby Gas Bill [LORDS]; Dudley, Stourbridge, and District Tramways Bill [Lords]; Poole and District Electric Traction Bill [Lords].—As amended, considered: to be read the third time 1021

Pier and Harbour Provisional Orders (No. 4) Bill.—Lords' Amendments considered and agreed to 1021

Pier and Harbour Provisional Orders (No. 2) Bill; Pier and Harbour Provisional Orders (No 3) Bill.—Lords' Amendments considered and agreed to 1021

Education Board Provisional Order Confirmation (London) Bill [LORDS].—Read the second time, and committed 1021

Birmingham District Tramways Bill [LORDS].—Reported, with Amendments; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed 1022

Chard Corporation Gas and Electricity Bill [LORDS]; Dewsbury, Batley and Birstal Tramways Bill [Lords]; Mid-Yorkshire Tramways Bill [Lords]—Reported, with Amendments; Reports to lie upon the Table, and to be printed 1022

Taff Railway Bill [LORDS].—Reported, without Amendment; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed 1022

Maryport Harbour Bill [LORDS]; Barry Railway Bill [Lords].—Reported, with Amendments; Reports to lie upon the Table, and to be printed ... 1022

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.

That they had agreed to, Elementary Education Amendment Bill; Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 9) Bill; Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 5) Bill; without Amendment.

Wigan Corporation Tramways Bill; Middlesbrough Corporation Bill; with Amendments.

Amendment to, Pontypridd Urban District Council Bill [Lords]; Frinton-on-Sea Sea Defences Bill [Lords]; Cardiff Railway Bill [Lords]; Aston Manor Improvement Bill [Lords]; without Amendment.

That they have passed a Bill, intituled, "An Act to authorise the London County Council to provide receiving houses for the reception of persons mentally affected or alleged to be of unsound mind, and to authorise the detention of such persons in such houses, and for other purposes connected therewith." [Lunacy Acts Amendment (London) Bill [Lords].]

Also, a Bill intituled, "An Act to confirm a Provisional Order under the Private Legislation Procedure (Scotland) Act, 1899, relating to Glasgow Corporation Police." [Glasgow Corporation (Police) Order Confirmation Bill [Lords].]

July 17.] *Page*

And, also, a Bill intituled, "An Act to confirm a Provisional Order under the Private Legislation Procedure (Scotland) Act, 1899, relating to Irvine and District Water Board." [Irvine and District Water Board Order Confirmation Bill [Lords].] 1022

Glasgow Corporation (Police) Order Confirmation Bill [LORDS].—Read the first time: to be read a second time upon Monday, 27th July, and to be printed. [Bill 282.] 1023

Irvine and District Water Board Confirmation Bill [LORDS].—Read a first time; to be read a second time upon Monday, 27th July, and to be printed. [Bill 283.] 1023

Gas Orders Confirmation (No. 1) Bill [LORDS].—Reported, without Amendment [Provisional Orders confirmed]; Report to lie upon the Table. Bill to be read a third time upon Monday next 1023

Gas Orders Confirmation (No. 2) Bill [LORDS].—Reported, with Amendments [Provisional Orders confirmed]; Report to lie upon the Table. Bill, as amended, to be considered upon Monday next 1023

Water Orders Confirmation Bill [LORDS].—Reported, without Amendment [Provisional Orders confirmed]; Report to lie upon the Table. Bill to be read the third time upon Monday next 1023

Lochnell Estate Bill [LORDS].—Reported, without Amendment; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. Bill to be read the third time ... 1023

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

NATIONAL EDUCATION (IRELAND).—Copy presented, of Sixty-ninth Report of the Commissioners of National Education in Ireland, being for the year 1902 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 1023

AFRICA (NO. 8, 1903).—Copy presented, of Report on Slavery and Free Labour in the British East Africa Protectorate [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 1023

COMMERCIAL RELATIONS (COMMERCIAL, NO. 6, 1903).—Copy presented, of Findings of the Permanent Commission established under Article VII. of the Sugar Convention of 5th March, 1902, and Report of the British Delegate [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 1024

TRADE REPORTS (ANNUAL SERIES).—Copies presented, of Diplomatic and Consular Reports, Annual Series, Nos. 3,031 to 3,033 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 1024

TREATY SERIES (NO. 11, 1903).—Copy presented, of the Accession of Denmark to the International Convention of 9th September, 1886, establishing an International Union for the Protection of Literary and Artistic Works, and also to the additional Act and Declaration signed in Paris, 4th May, 1896—1st July, 1903 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 1024

TRAMWAYS ORDERS CONFIRMATION (NO. 1) BILL [LORDS].—Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 16th July; *Mr. Bonar Law*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [260] 1024

COLONIAL REPORTS (ANNUAL).—Copy presented, of Report No. 389 (Sierra Leone, Annual Report for 1902) [by Command]; to lie upon the Table ... 1024

TRINIDAD.—Copy presented, of Papers relating to the recent disturbances at Port of Spain, Trinidad [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 1024

July 17.] *Page*

TRINIDAD.—Copy presented, of Report of the Commission of Inquiry into the recent disturbances at Port of Spain, Trinidad [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 1024

UNIVERSITY OF GLASGOW.—Copy presented, of Abstract of Accounts of the University of Glasgow for the year ending 30th September, 1902 [by Act] to lie upon the Table; and to be printed. [No. 261.] ... ...

Paper laid upon the Table by the Clerk of the House 1024

PUBLIC RECORDS (POST OFFICE).—Copy of Fourth Schedule containing a List and Particulars of Classes of Documents existing or accruing in the Office of His Majesty's Postmaster-General, which are not considered of sufficient public value to justify their preservation in the Public Record Office [by Act] 1025

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

CONCESSIONS FOR THE COLLECTION OF RUBBER IN UGANDA.—Question, Mr. Bayley (Derbyshire, Chesterfield); Answer, Lord Cranborne 1025

INCREASE IN PRICE OF WHEAT DURING "LEITER CORNER."—Question, Sir Howard Vincent (Sheffield, Central); Answer, Mr. Gerald Balfour ... 1026

AVERAGE PRICES AND DUTY ON WHEAT IN ENGLAND, FRANCE, AND GERMANY. —Question, Colonel Long (Worcestershire, Evesham); Answer, Mr. Gerald Balfour 1026

ELECTRIC HIGH-TENSION CURRENT ON OVERHEAD WIRES.—Question, Mr. Markham (Nottinghamshire, Mansfield); Answer, Mr. Gerald Balfour ... 1026

FOREIGN IMPORTS INTO THE COLONIES—MERCHANDISE MARKS ACTS.—Question, Mr. D. A. Thomas (Merthyr Tydvil); Answer, Mr. Gerald Balfour ... 1027

FISCAL INQUIRY—REPRINT OF PARLIAMENTARY PAPER, NO. 229 OF SESSION 1825.—Question, Mr. D. A. Thomas; Answer, Mr. Gerald Balfour ... 1028

ASSISTANT HEAD POSTMEN—CASE OF C. W. MASON, OF CLAPHAM.—Question, Mr. James O'Connor (Wicklow, W.); Answer, Mr. Austen Chamberlain ... 1028

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.—Question, Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman (Stirling Burghs); Answer, The Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury (Mr. A. J. Balfour, Manchester, E.) 1028

Irish Land Bill.— As amended, considered.

Mr. T. M. Healy (*Louth, N.*) 1029

Clause. (Compulsory acquisition land.)

"Where any land or easement sold under the provisions of the Land Purchase Acts is required by any local authority under any Act enabling such authority compulsorily to acquire same, no appeal shall lie from any order of the Local Government Board sanctioning the acquisition of such land under the Labourers (Ireland) Acts, the Public Health (Ireland) Acts, or the Local Government (Ireland) Acts, and the decision of the Judge of Assize under Section 10, Sub-section 3 (d) of the Local Government (Ireland) Act, 1898, shall be final except when the order therein referred to is refused."—(*Mr. T. M. Healy.*)

Brought up, and read the first time.

July 17.] *Page*

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Clause be read a second time."

The Chief Secretary for Ireland (*Mr. Wyndham, Dover*) 1030
Mr. T. W. Russell (*Tyrone, S.*) 1030

Motion and Clause, by leave, withdrawn.

Mr. T. M. Healy 1031

Clause (Variable head rents).

"Where by reason of the non-publication of the average prices of produce in the *Dublin Gazette*, it has become impossible judicially to determine the amount by which any variable rent calculable upon an average of prices should be varied, Sections 2 and 3 of the Act of the sixty-third and sixty-fourth years of Victoria, chapter fifty-eight, shall apply in the case of such variable rents, and the words 'tithe rent-charge,' in the said sections, shall be deemed to include any variable rent as aforesaid."—(*Mr. T. M. Healy.*)

Brought up, and read the first time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Clause be read a second time."

Mr. Wyndham 1031

Question put, and agreed to.

Clause added to the Bill.

Clause (Sub-divided holdings).

"In the construction of Section 5, Sub-section 3, of The Land Law (Ireland) Act, 1896, the words 'tenants in common' shall be deemed to include two or more persons between whom the holding is divided."—(*Mr. T. M. Healy.*)

Brought up, and read the first time.

Motion made, and Question "That the clause be read a second time," put and agreed to.

Clause added to the Bill.

Mr. T. W. Russell 1032

Clause (Abolition of landlord's right of pre-emption).

"Sub-section 3 of Section 1 of The Land Law (Ireland) Act, 1881, relating to the right of the landlord to purchase a holding is hereby repealed."—(*Mr. T. W. Russell.*)

Brought up, and read the first time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the clause be read a second time."

Mr. Wyndham 1032

Motion, Clause, by leave, withdrawn.

Mr. Lonsdale (*Armagh, Mid*) 1033

Clause (Trinity College and church perpetuity leases).

"Holders of land under ecclesiastical perpetuity leases and Trinity College leases may apply to the Land Commission to have their rents reduced proportionately to the reductions of rent granted to their tenants; and the Land Commission shall reduce such rents accordingly, and shall, in the case of any holding subject to a judicial rent fixed or agreed to before the passing of the Act of 1896, make a further reduction of ten per cent. on the rent payable for such holding."—(*Mr. Lonsdale.*)

Brought up, and read the first time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the clause be read a second time."

Mr. Wyndham 1039
Mr. Dillon (*Mayo, E.*) 1040
Mr. T. M. Healy 1040
Mr. Flavin (*Kerry, N.*) 1041

Question put, and negatived.

Clause (Mill farms).

"A tenant of a holding upon which a mill is situated may make application to the Court, and the Court may direct that the non-agricultural portion of the holding shall be separated from the agricultural portion thereof, and may determine the proportion of rent to be allocated to each portion, and may thereupon fix a fair rent for the agricultural portion of the holding, to which the Land Law Acts shall then apply as if it was a separate holding."—(*Mr. Lonsdale.*)

Brought up, and read the first time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the clause be read a second time."

Mr. Wyndham 1041

Question put, and negatived.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 1, line 13, to leave out the words 'as amended by this Act.'"—(*Mr. Wyndham.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Bill."

Mr. John Redmond (*Waterford*) 1041

Question put and negatived.

Mr. T. W. Russell... 1042

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 1, line 25, to leave out from beginning of the line to the end of line 3, page 2."—(*Mr. T. W. Russell.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out, to the word 'may' in line 27, stand part of the Bill."

Mr. Wyndham 1043

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

July 17.] Page

Mr. T. M. Healy 1043

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 2, line 23, to leave out from the word 'a' to end of line 25, and insert the words 'holding to which the Land Law (Ireland) Acts apply.'"—(*Mr. T. M. Healy.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Bill."

Mr. William O'Brien (*Cork*) 1044
Mr. T. W. Russell 1044
Mr. Wyndham 1045
Mr. Leamy (*Kildare, N.*) 1046
Mr. Flynn (*Cork Co., N.*) 1046
The Attorney-General for Ireland (*Mr. Atkinson, Londonderry, N.*) ... 1046

Question put, and negatived.

Question, "That those words be there inserted in the Bill" put, and agreed to.

Mr. Butcher (*York*) 1047

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 2, line 27, to leave out the words 'as defined by this Act,' and insert the words 'in respect of which the Land Commission have given a certificate under section six of this Act.'"—(*Mr. Butcher.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Bill."

Mr. Wyndham 1047
Mr. Dillon 1047
Mr. Atkinson 1048

Question put, and negatived.

Question, "That those words be there inserted in the Bill," put, and agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 2, line 35, to leave out the words 'ten acres in area and.'"—(*Mr. Wyndham.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out, stand part of the Bill."

Mr. Dillon 1049

Question put, and negatived.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 2, line 40, to leave out the word 'a' and insert the word 'that.'"—(*Mr. Wyndham.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 3, line 6, to leave out the words 'five hundred,' and insert the words 'one thousand.'"—(*Mr. Wyndham.*)

Question proposed, "That the words 'five hundred' stand part of the Bill."

Mr. Dillon 1050

Question put, and negatived.

Question, "That the words 'one thousand' be there inserted in the Bill," put, and agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 3, to leave out lines 7 to 12, inclusive, and insert the words 'Provided that the limitation in this Sub-section may, subject to the other limitations in the Land Purchase Acts be exceeded, where the Land Commission consider that a larger advance may be sanctioned to any purchaser without prejudice to the wants and circumstances of other persons residing in the neighbourhood.' "—(*Mr. Wyndham.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 3, line 29, after the word 'vendor,' to insert the words 'or (in the case of an estate purchased from the Land Judge) to the former owner of the estate or a person nominated by the Land Commission as his representative.' "—(*Mr. Wyndham.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 3, line 30, to leave out the words 'to the vendor.' "—(*Mr. Wyndham.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 3, line 34, at end, to add the words '(3) In entering into agreements for the resale of any land to the vendor of an estate the Land Commission shall have regard to the amount of land available for the enlargement of holdings where they consider such enlargement necessary. (4) Where an advance is made in pursuance of this section the Judicial Commissioner may, if he thinks it equitable, on the application of any person who, at the date of the sale of the land to the Land Commission, was entitled to any estate in remainder or reversion in that land order, upon such terms and conditions as he may think reasonable, that the land so resold shall devolve in accordance with the terms of the settlements which at the date of the sale to the Land Commission affected it.' "—(*Mr. Wyndham.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted in the Bill."

Mr. William O'Brien 1051

Proposed Amendment amended—

"In line 5, by leaving out the words 'an advance is made,' and inserting the words 'any land is resold to the vendor.' "—(*Colonel Wyndham-Quin.*)

Proposed words, as amended, inserted in the Bill.

Mr. T. M. Healy 1051

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 3, line 39, after the word 'pasturage,' to insert the words 'acquiring foreshore or land for raising sand, gravel, or seaweed, or for the construction of piers.' "—(*Mr. T. M. Healy.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted in the Bill."

July 17.] Page

Sir Robert Fitzgerald (*Cambridge*) 1052
Mr. Wyndham 1052

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 3, line 39, after the word 'pasturage,' to insert the words 'the raising of sand or gravel, the cutting or gathering of seaweed.'"—(*Mr. Wyndham.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 7, lines 6 and 7, to leave out the words 'where an estate or untenanted land is vested in them.'"—(*Mr. Wyndham.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Bill."

Mr. William O'Brien 1052
Mr. Wyndham 1052

Question put and negatived.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 7, line 9, to leave out the words 'the estate,' and insert the word 'estates.'"—(*Mr. Wyndham.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 7, line 9, at end, to insert the words 'purchased or proposed to be purchased under this Act.'"—(*Mr. Wyndham*).

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 8, line 34, at beginning, to insert the words 'In the case of the sale of an estate.'"— (*Mr. Wyndham.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 8, line 36, to leave out the word 'an,' and insert the word 'the.'"—(*Mr. Wyndham.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 8, lines 36 and 37, to leave out the words 'purchased by them or by the Congested Districts Board.'"—(*Mr. Wyndham.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Bill."

Mr. Clancy (*Dublin Co., N.*) 1053
Mr. Wyndham 1053

Question put and negatived.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 9, line 3, after the word 'agreement,' to insert the words 'by all persons interested.'"—(*Sir John Colomb.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted in the Bill."

Mr. Wyndham 1054

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 9, line 3, after the word 'agreement,' to insert the words 'between the owner of the estate and the owner of the intervening interest.'"—(*Mr. Wyndham.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 11, line 39, to leave out from the word 'of,' to the word 'by,' in line 41, and insert 'section four of.'"—(*Mr. T. M. Healy.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendments proposed to the Bill—

"In page 12, line 14, after the word 'cutting' to insert the words 'or making.'"

"In page 12, line 21, to leave out the words 'or making.'"—(*Mr. J. P. Farrell.*)

Amendments agreed to.

Amendments proposed to the Bill—

"In page 13, line 13, to leave out the words 'and shall hold office during pleasure.'"

"In page 13, line 13, at end to insert the words (4) 'The Estates Commissioners shall hold office during pleasure, but any Estates Commissioner shall only be removed from his office by an Order in Council, and any such Order shall be laid before each House of Parliament forthwith, and if an address is presented to His Majesty by either House of Parliament within the next subsequent forty days on which that House has sat next after any such Order is laid before it praying that the Order may be annulled, His Majesty in Council may annul the Order, and it shall thenceforth be void.'"

"In page 13, line 14, at end, to insert the words 'nominated or.'"—(*Mr. Wyndham.*)

Amendments agreed to.

Mr. T. W. Russell 1055

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 13, line 29, after the word, 'may' to insert the words 'after consultation with the Land Commission and.'"—(*Mr. T. W. Russell.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendments proposed to the Bill.

"In page 13, line 29, to leave out from the word 'may' to the word 'such,' in line 30, and to insert the word 'nominate.'"

"In page 13, line 30, after the word 'the,' to insert the word 'land.'"

July 17.] Page

"In page 13, line 30, at end to insert the words 'with the consent of the Treasury as to number and remuneration.'"—*(Mr. Wyndham.)*

Amendments agreed to.

On Sub-section 9—

"Sales of estates to the Estates Commissioners and sales by those Commissioners to tenants and others may be negotiated and completed by any agents, solicitors, or other persons approved by the Estates Commissioners at a fixed price or percentage, according to a scale to be settled by the Estates Commissioners with the assent of the Treasury, and such price or percentage shall be paid as part of the expenses of the Land Commission."

Sir W. Hart Dyke (Kent, Dartford) 1055

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 13, line 38, to leave out the words 'and completed by any agents, solicitors, or other persons,' and insert the words 'by any land agent or solicitor nominated by the landlord and.'"—*(Sir W. Hart Dyke.)*

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Bill."

Mr. Wyndham 1056
Mr. T. W. Russell 1056
Mr. Dillon... 1056
Mr. Wyndham 1057
Mr. William Redmond (Clare, E.) 1057
Mr. Jordan (Fermanagh, S.) 1057
Sir John Rolleston, (Leicester) 1058

Question put, and negatived.

Question, "That those words be there inserted in the Bill," put, and agreed to.

Amendments proposed to the Bill—

"In page 14, line 2, after the word 'Lieutenant,' to insert the words 'and after consultation with the President of the Incorporated Law Society of Ireland.'"

"In page 14, line 14, after the word 'and,' to insert the words, 'those reports and all rules under the last preceding sub-section.'"—*(Mr. Wyndham.)*

Amendments agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 15, line 6, at end, to insert the words 'In this sub-section the expression "the annual income," shall include the annual amount payable in respect of the premiums on any policy of insurance where those premiums are charged upon land.'"—*(Mr. Wyndham.)*

Amendment agreed to.

Sir Lewis McIver (Edinburgh, W.) 1059

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 15, line 17, after the word 'estate,' to insert the words 'where the purchase money thereof is sufficient to discharge all claims affecting the same and.'"—(*Sir Lewis McIver.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted in the Bill."

Mr. Wyndham 1059

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 15, line 22, after the word 'arrears,' to insert the words 'for his own use.'"—(*Mr. Wyndham.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 15, line 27, to leave out the word 'shall' and insert the word 'may.'"—(*Mr. Hemphill*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'shall' stand part of the Bill."

Mr. Herbert Robertson (*Hackney, N.*) 1060

Question put, and negatived.

Question, "That the word 'may' be there inserted in the Bill" put, and agreed to.

Mr. Butcher (*York*) 1060

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 16, line 31, after the word 'advances,' to insert the words 'provided that this sub-section shall not apply in any case where the Land Commission are satisfied that it is not owing to any act or default of such person that his title is not established, and the amount of his claim invested as aforesaid.'"—(*Mr. Butcher.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted in the Bill."

Mr. T. M. Healy 1061
Mr. Atkinson 1062
Sir Lewis McIver 1061

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Mr. Butcher 1061

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 16, line 34, to leave out Sub-section (3)."—(*Mr. Butcher.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Bill."

Mr. T. M. Healy 1062
Mr. Atkinson 1062

Amendment, by leave withdrawn.

Sir Lewis McIver 1063

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 17, lines 1 and 2, to leave out the words 'shall in the case of agreements entered into,' and insert the word 'sanctioned.'"—(*Sir Lewis McIver.*)

July 17.] *Page*

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Bill.

Mr. Atkinson 1063
Mr. Wyndham 1063

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 18, line 41, after the word 'cent.' to insert the words 'per annum.'"—(*Mr. Wyndham.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 19, line 31, to leave out the word 'interest,' and insert the word 'dividends.'"—(*Mr. Wyndham.*)

Amendments agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 19, line 38, after the word 'advances,' to insert the words 'to them.'"—(*Mr. Wyndham.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 19, line 39, to leave out the word 'interest,' and insert the word 'dividends.'"—(*Mr. Wyndham.*)

Amendment agreed to.

On Clause 38.

Mr. T. W. Russell 1064

Amendment proposed—

"In page 20, line 35, to leave out Clause 38."—(*Mr. T. W. Russell.*)

Question proposed, "That the words of Clause 38 to the word 'the,' in line 36, stand part of the Bill."

Mr. Dillon 1066
Mr. Wyndham 1068
Mr. T. M. Healy 1069
Mr. Blake (*Longford, S.*) 1069
Mr. T. P. O'Connor (*Liverpool, Scotland*)... 1070

Question put, and agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 20, line 35, at beginning, to insert the words, 'Subject to the provision of the last preceding section.'"—(*Mr. Wyndham.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 21, line 19, to leave out the words 'of seventy thousand pounds mentioned in,' and insert the words 'payable under.'"—(*Mr. Wyndham.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 21, line 23, after the word 'grant,' to insert the words 'substituted for the grant.'"—(*Mr. Wyndham.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 22, line 30, after the words 'per cent.,' to insert the words 'per annum.'"—(*Mr. Wyndham.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 22, line 31, after the words 'per cent.,' to insert the words 'per annum.'"—(*Mr. Wyndham.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 23, line 7, at end, to insert the words '(2) The purchase annuity shall be paid until the whole of the advance in respect of which it is payable is ascertained in manner prescribed by the Treasury to have been repaid.'"—(*Mr. Wyndham.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted in the Bill."

Mr. Dillon 1071

Question put, and agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 23, line 19, at end, to add the words '(3) Any rules under this section shall, as soon as may be after they are made, be laid before both Houses of Parliament.'"—(*Mr. Wyndham.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Mr. Butcher 1072

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 24, line 6, at end, to insert the words '(3) The vendor shall, out of the percentage payable to him under this section, pay and discharge such of the costs of and incidental to the sale as would but for this provision be payable out of the purchase money of the estate. Provided that the amount of the costs so payable shall not exceed 3 per cent. on the amount of the purchase money of the estate.'"—(*Mr. Butcher.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted in the Bill."

Mr. Wyndham 1074

Question put, and negatived.

Amendments proposed to the Bill—

"In page 24, line 9, to leave out the words 'scale of percentages,' and insert the word 'percentage.'"

"In page 24, line 12, to leave out the word 'scale,' and insert the word 'percentage.'"

"In page 24, line 17, at end, to insert the words 'or to any estate sold by a mortgagee in possession.'"—(*Mr. Wyndham.*)

Amendments agreed to.

July 17.] Page

Mr. T. M. Healy 1074

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 24, line 17, at the end, to insert the words 'nor to any estate as to which an absolute order for sale was made in the Land Judge's Court prior to the 1st of January, 1901, where such order after the passing of this Act has been discharged. "Estate" for the purpose of this sub-section shall include any portion of an estate.'"—(*Mr. T. M. Healy.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted in the Bill."

Mr. Wyndham 1075

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Mr. Duke (*Plymouth*) 1076

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 24, line 37, after the word 'in,' to insert the words, '(a) bonds, debentures, or mortgages secured upon rates or taxes levied under the authority of any Act of Parliament or Provisional Order by any municipal corporation or other local authority in the United Kingdom which shall be authorised to borrow on such security; (b) ground rents arising out of hereditaments in the United Kingdom and not exceeding in amount one-fourth part of the annual value at a rack rent of the premises out of which such ground rents issue; (c) debentures or mortgages of railway companies in the United Kingdom incorporated by Act of Parliament; (d) stocks or shares of any tramway or light railway interest upon which is guaranteed from or charged upon rates under the Tramways (Ireland) Acts; (e) bonds, debentures, or mortgages secured upon any investments in which trustees are authorised by this or any other Act to invest trust funds; (f) debentures or fully paid shares or stocks of any railway or commercial or industrial company in the United Kingdom, provided that the sufficiency of such investment to realise the sum invested therein upon the death of the tenant for life or the termination of the trust shall be secured to the satisfaction of the public trustee under this Act; or (g).'"—(*Mr. Duke.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted in the Bill."

Mr. Wyndham 1078

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Amendments proposed to the Bill—

"In page 26, line 28, to leave out the words 'March last before the passing of this Act,' and insert the words 'January in the year nineteen hundred and one.'"

"In page 27, line 1, after the word 'holding,' to insert the words 'or part thereof.'"—(*Mr. Wyndham.*)

Amendments agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 27, line 9, at end, to add the words '(3) Nothing in this section shall affect any estate as to which a request by the Land Judge issued to the Land Commission under said Section 40 prior to the passing of this Act.'"—(*Mr. T. M. Healy.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 27, line 39, after the word 'sum,' to insert the words 'or sums.'"—(*Mr. Wyndham.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 27, line 39, after the word 'exceeding,' to insert the words 'in the aggregate.'"—(*Mr. Wyndham.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 27, line 39, after the word 'the,' to insert the words 'amount of the.'"—(*Mr. Wyndham*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 27, line 40, after the word 'annuity,' to insert the word 'payable.'"—(*Mr. Wyndham.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 27, line 40, 'after the word 'part,' to insert the words 'upon the making of the advance.'"—(*Mr. Wyndham.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 27, line 41, to leave out the word 'for,' and insert the words 'by which the holding is charged with.'"—(*Mr. Wyndham.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 27, line 42, at end, to insert the words 'where part of a holding is mortgaged or charged the Land Commission shall, for the purpose of this enactment, estimate the amount of the purchase annuity payable in respect of that part.'"—(*Mr. Wyndham.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 28, line 1, after the word 'holding,' to insert the words 'other than a charge under any Public Works Act.'"—(*Mr. Wyndham.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 28, line 12, after the word 'any' to insert the words 'and any charge under any Public Works Act.'"—(*Mr. Wyndham.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 28, line 36, to leave out the word 'fails,' and insert the words 'wilfully neglects.'"—(*Mr. T. M. Healy.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 28, line 37, to leave out the word 'ten' and insert the word 'two.'"—(*Mr. Wyndham.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 28, line 40, at end, to add the words 'and such rules shall provide a scale of remuneration to be paid by the Land Commission to officers furnishing information under Sub-sections 2 and 3 of this Section.'"—(*Mr. T. M. Healy.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 29, line 28, after the word 'tenant,' to insert the words 'provided that no arrears shall be recoverable where the tenant has paid a sum equivalent to a year's rent within the year immediately preceding such offer.'"—(*Mr. T. M. Healy.*)

Mr. T. M. Healy 1080

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 29, line 39, at end, to add the words 'Every such reference for reconsideration shall contain the reasons thereof, and a copy of such reasons shall be forwarded to the Treasury, and shall forthwith be published in the *Dublin Gazette*. The Land Commission shall include in their annual report to Parliament an explanation of any variation made by them in a report on such reconsideration.'"—(*Mr. T. M. Healy.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted in the Bill."

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 20, line 10, at end, to add the words '(4) Subject to the provisions of this section, where a request has been issued by the Land Judge to the Land Commission, an order dismissing the petition for sale shall not be made until the offer in that Section mentioned has been made aud refused.'"—(*Mr. T. M. Healy.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted in the Bill."

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 31, line 35, at end, to insert the words '(3) This section shall not apply to any reversion or estate expectant on the determination of an estate tail or a base fee which is vested in the Crown.'"—(*Mr. Wyndham.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 32, line 15, after the word 'determined' to insert the words 'after hearing the parties.'"—(*Mr. T. M. Healy.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted in the Bill."

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

July 17.] Page

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 32, line 15, to leave out the words 'Land Commission' and insert the words 'Judicial Commissioner.'"—(*Mr. Wyndham.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill.

"In page 33, line 9, after the word 'Acts' to insert the words 'Provided that, in any case where no part of such guarantee deposit has been actually applied, in pursuance of the Land Purchase Acts, for five years, after the date that the holding in respect of which the same was retained was vested in the purchaser thereof, the Land Commission shall, on application, pay the same to the person entitled thereto.'"—(*Sir Lewis McIver.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted in the Bill."

Mr. Wyndham 1082

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 33, line 32, to leave out from beginning to word 'all,' in line 33."—(*Mr. Wyndham.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 33, line 37, to leave out the first words 'Act of,' and insert the words 'Landlord and Tenant (Ireland) Act.'"—(*Mr. Wyndham.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 33, line 37, to leave out the word 'Land.'"—(*Mr. Wyndham.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Mr. T. W Russell 1082

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 37, line 15, to leave out Sub-section 3."—(*Mr. T. W. Russell.*)

Question proposed—"That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Bill."

Question put, and agreed to.

Mr. T. M. Healy 1083

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 37, line 35, at end, to add the words 'having not less than five years' experience under the Land Commission.'"—(*Mr. T. M. Healy.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted in the Bill."

Mr. Wyndham 1083

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Mr. T. W. Russell 1083

July 17.] *Page*

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 38, line 5, after the word 'assessor,' to insert the words, 'who shall be appointed by the Lord Lieutenant after consultation with the Land Commission.' "—(*Mr. T. W. Russell.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted in the Bill."

Mr. Dillon 1084
Mr. Wyndham 1084
Mr. John Redmond... 1084

Question put, and negatived.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 39, line 29, to leave out the word 'wages, and insert the words 'average wages for the year.' "—(*Mr. Wyndham.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'wages' stand part of the Bill."

Mr. O'Shee (*Waterford, N.*) 1085

Amendment proposed to the proposed Amendment to the Bill—

"After the word 'year' to insert the words 'preceding the lodgment of the representation.' "—(*Mr. O'Shee.*)

Question put, and negatived.

Amendment, as amended, agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 40, line 15, after the word 'Acts,' to insert the words '1883 to 1896.' "—(*Mr. Wyndham.*)

Amendment agreed to

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 40, line 19, after the word 'in' to insert the words 'the said Act as amended by.' "—(*Mr. Wyndham.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 40, to leave out Clause 94."—(*Mr. Wyndham.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 40, line 39, after the word 'includes,' to insert the words 'Part Three of the Act of 1896.' "—(*Mr. Wyndham.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 41, line 2, at end, to insert the words 'The expression "the Land Law Acts," means the Land Law Acts as defined by the Act of 1896 and part one of that Act.' "—(*Mr. Wyndham.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 41, line 12, at end, to insert the words, 'The expression "land agent" means and includes receivers under the Courts or receivers under deed.' "—(*Sir John Rolleston*).

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 43, to leave out Schedule 1."—(*Mr. Wyndham.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 43, line 26, after the word 'three,' to insert the words 'Sub-sections 3, 4, 5, and 5 of Section 36.'"—(*Mr. Wyndham.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 43, line 28, at end, to insert the words '54 and 55 Vic c. 71, The Labourers' (Ireland) Act, 1891, Section 3.'"—(*Mr. Wyndham.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 43, line 30, after the word 'five,' to insert the words 'save as regards agreements for purchase made before the passing of this Act.'"—(*Mr. Wyndham.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 43, line 32, after the word 'three,' to insert the words 'save as regards agreements for purchase made before the passing of this Act.'"—(*Mr. Wyndham.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Mr. T. M. Healy 1087

Bill to be read the third time upon Tuesday next, and to be printed.

Metropolitan Streets Bill.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

Mr. Caldwell (*Lanarkshire, Mid.*).... 1087
The Secretary of State for the Home Department (*Mr. Akers Douglas, Kent, St. Augustines*).

Bill reported, without Amendment; read the third time, and passed.

Statute Law Revision (Scotland) Bill [Lords] (Second Reading).—Order of the day for the Second Reading read.

Mr. Caldwell 1089
The Lord Advocate (*Mr. A. Graham Murray, Buteshire*)... 1090
Sir Frederick Banbury (*Camberwell, Peckham*) 1091

Bill read a second time, and committed for Tuesday next.

Innkeepers' Liability Bill.

Mr. Galloway (*Manchester, S.W.*)... 1091

Further Consideration, as amended (by the Standing Committee), deferred until Wedndsday next.

Adjourned at twenty-eight minutes before Six o'clock till Monday next.

HOUSE OF LORDS: MONDAY, 20TH JULY, 1903.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

The LORD CHANCELLOR acquainted the House that the Clerk of the Parliaments had laid upon the Table the Certificate from the Examiners that the further Standing Orders applicable to the following Bill have been complied with :—Alexandra Park and Palace.

The same was ordered to lie on the Table 1093

City and South London Railway Bill; Romford and District Tramways Bill.—Read 3^a, with the Amendments; further Amendments made; Bills passed, and returned to the Commons 1093

Newcastle-on-Tyne Electric Supply Bill.—Read 3^a, with the Amendments; a further Amendment made; Bill passed and returned to the Commons ... 1093

Woolwich Borough Council Bill.—Read 3^a, with the Amendments, and passed, and returned to the Commons 1093

Metropolitan Streets Bill.—Brought from the Commons 1093

Pier and Harbour Provisional Orders (No. 4) Bill.—Returned from the Commons, with the Amendment agreed to 1093

Pier and Harbour Provisional Orders (No. 2) Bill; Pier and Harbour Provisional Orders (No. 3) Bill.—Returned from the Commons, with the Amendments agreed to 1093

Lancashire and Yorkshire and London and North Western Railways (Steam Vessels) Bill.—Reported from the Select Committee, with Amendments 1093

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 13) Bill.—Moved, "That the Order made on the 16th day of March last, 'That no Provisional Order Confirmation Bill brought from the House of Commons shall be read a second time after the 18th day of June next,' be dispensed with, and that the Bill be now read 2^a"; agreed to; Bill read 2^a accordingly, and committed to a Committee of the Whole House to-morrow 1093

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

TRADE REPORTS (ANNUAL SERIES).—No. 3034: Netherlands (Rotterdam); No. 3035: Italy (Lecce) 1094

SOMALILAND.—Despatches relative to the operations of the Somaliland Field Force 1094

BOARD OF EDUCATION.—Syllabuses and lists of apparatus applicable to schools and classes other than elementary (from 1st August, 1903, to 31st July, 1904) 1094

GOVERNMENT LABORATORY.—Report of the Principal Chemist, Government Laboratory, upon the work of the laboratory, for the year ended 31st March, 1903; with appendices.

Presented (by Command), and ordered to lie on the Table 1094

ARMY.—Further regulations relating to: 1. The Army Reserve; 2. The Militia 1094

COUNTY OFFICERS AND COURTS (IRELAND) ACT, 1877.—Account of receipts and payments under the Act during the year ended 31st March, 1903 ... 1094

SUPREME COURT OF JUDICATURE.—Rules of the Supreme Court, July, 1903.

Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table 1094

INDIA AND THE SOUTH AFRICAN GARRISON.

The Marquess of Ripon 1094

Moved, "That an humble address be presented to his Majesty's Government for Papers relating to the proposal of His Majesty's Government for placing a portion of the cost of the troops in South Africa upon the revenues of India."—(*The Marquess of Ripon.*)

The Under Secretary of State for War (*The Earl of Hardwicke*) 1103
The Earl of Northbrook 1108
Viscount Goschen 1114
Lord Welby... 1117
The First Lord of the Admiralty (*The Earl of Selborne*) 1120
Earl of Spencer 1122
The Duke of Devonshire 1125

Motion, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

Metropolitan Streets Bill.—Read 1ª; to be printed; and to be read 2ª To-morrow.—(*The Lord Belper.*) (No. 166) 1129

House adjourned at twenty minutes before Seven o'clock, till To-morrow, half-past Seven o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS: MONDAY, 20TH JULY, 1903.

The House met at Two of the Clock.

UNOPPOSED PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

NAVAL WORKS (PORTSMOUTH BARRACKS SITE) BILL (STANDING ORDERS APPLICABLE THERETO NOT COMPLIED WITH) —MR. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, "That, in the case of the following Bill, referred pursuant to the Order of the House of the 14th day of July, the Standing Orders which are applicable thereto have not been complied with, viz.:—Naval Works (Portsmouth Barracks Site) Bill."

Ordered, "That the Report be referred to the Select Committee on Standing Orders" 1129

Baker Street and Waterloo Railway Bill; Midland Great Western Railway of Ireland Bill; Walker and Wallsend Union Gas Bill.—Lords' Amendments considered, and agreed to 1129

Carmarthenshire Electric Power Bill [LORDS]; Fife Electric Power Bill [Lords].—Read the third time, and passed, with Amendments 1129

St. Philip's Chapel (Regent Street) Bill [LORDS] (King's consent signified). —Bill read the third time, and passed, without Amendment 1130

July 20.] *Page*

Bournemouth Corporation Tramways Bill [LORDS]; Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire Tramways Bill [Lords]; Sutton Coldfield Corporation Bill [Lords].—As amended, considered; to be read the third time 1130

Bangor Corporation Bill [LORDS]; Brighton Corporation Bill [Lords]; Pentillie Estate Bill [Lords]; South Staffordshire Tramways Bill [Lords].—Read a second time, and committed 1130

Gas Orders Confirmation (No. 1) Bill [LORDS]; Water Orders Confirmation Bill [Lords].—Read the third time, and passed, without Amendment ... 1130

Gas Orders Confirmation (No. 2) Bill [LORDS].—As Amended, considered; to be read the third time to-morrow 1130

Tramways Orders Confirmation (No. 1) Bill [LORDS].—Read a second time, and committed 1130

Scottish Episcopal Clergy Widows' and Orphans' Fund Confirmation Order.—Bill to confirm a Provisional Order under The Private Legislation Procedure (Scotland) Act, 1899, relating to the Scottish Episcopal Clergy Widows' and Orphans' Fund, ordered to be brought in by The Lord Advocate and Mr. Solicitor-General for Scotland 1130

Scottish Episcopal Clergy Widows' and Orphans' Fund Confirmation Bill.—"To confirm a Provisional Order under The Private Legislation Procedure (Scotland) Act, 1899, relating to the Scottish Episcopal Clergy Widows' and Orphans' Fund," presented accordingly; and ordered to be considered on Friday 1130

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.

That they have agreed to—Pier and Harbour Provisional Orders (No. 5) Bill, with an Amendment.

Amendments to—London, Brighton, and South Coast Railway Bill [Lords]; Mersey Docks and Harbour Board Bill [Lords], without Amendment.

That they have passed a Bill, intituled, "An Act to confirm a Provisional Order under The Private Legislation Procedure (Scotland) Act, 1899, relating to the Lanarkshire Tramways." [Lanarkshire Tramways Order Confirmation Bill (Lords)] 1130

Lanarkshire Tramways Order Confirmation Bill [LORDS].—Read the first time; to be read a second time upon Tuesday, 28th July, and to be printed. [Bill 284.] 1131

PETITIONS.

LICENSING (SCOTLAND) ACTS AMENDMENT BILL.—Petition from Winchburgh, in favour; to lie upon the Table 1131

NATIONAL DEFENCE SCHEME.—Petition from Baildon, for adoption; to lie upon the Table 1131

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

TRADE (COLONIES AND UNITED KINGDOM).—Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 16th July; *Mr. Fuller*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed [No. 262] 1131

Page

SOMALILAND (DESPATCHES).—Copy presented, of Despatches relative to the Operations of the Somaliland Field Force [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 1131

ARMY (MILITIA).—Copy presented, of Further Regulations relating to the Militia [by Act]; to lie upon the Table 1131

ARMY RESERVE.—Copy presented, of Further Regulations relating to the Army Reserve [by Act]; to lie upon the Table 1131

BOARD OF EDUCATION.—Copy presented, of Syllabuses and Lists of Apparatus applicable to Schools and Classes other than Elementary (from 1st August, 1903, to 31st July, 1904) [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 1131

GOVERNMENT LABORATORY.—Copy presented, of Report of the Principal Chemist upon the work of the Government Laboratory for the year ended 31st March, 1903, with Appendices [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 1132

COUNTY OFFICERS AND COURTS (IRELAND) ACT, 1877.—Account presented, of the Receipts and Payments under the Act during the year ended the 31st March, 1903 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 263] 1132

TRADE REPORTS (ANNUAL SERIES).—Copies presented, of Diplomatic and Consular Reports, Annual Series, Nos. 3034 and 3035 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

Paper laid upon the Table by the Clerk of the House 1132

SUPREME COURT (RULES).—Copy of Rules of the Supreme Court, dated 14th July, 1903 [by Act] 1132

PAROCHIAL MEDICAL OFFICERS (SCOTLAND).—Return ordered, "of the number of parishes in the counties of Orkney, Shetland, Caithness, Sutherland, Ross and Cromarty, Inverness and Argyll, in which the office of resident Parochial Medical Officer has been vacant within the last seven years, stating (*a*) name of parish; (*b*) number of times the vacancy has occurred; (*c*) length of time the office has been vacant in each case."—(*Mr. Cathcart Wason.*)

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

VALUE OF IMPORTS INTO BRITISH COLONIES AND POSSESSIONS FROM FOREIGN COUNTRIES.—Question, Mr. Partington (Derbyshire, High Peak); Answer, Mr. Gerald Balfour 1132

AVERAGE PRICE OF IRON, STEEL, &C., AND COTTON AND WOOLLEN GOODS IN 1872 AND 1902.—Question, Mr. George Whiteley (Yorkshire, W.R., Pudsey); Answer, Mr. Gerald Balfour 1133

SCOTCH FISHING BOATS—CREW SPACE—DEDUCTIONS FOR SANITARY ACCOMMODATION.—Question, Mr. Black (Banffshire); Answer, Mr. Gerald Balfour 1133

TRANSFERENCE OF OLD SHIPS FROM BRITISH OWNERSHIP TO FOREIGN FLAGS.—Question, Mr. Runciman (Dewsbury); Answer, Mr. Gerald Brlfour ... 1134

GERMAN AND BRITISH TRADE STATISTICS—EXPLANATION OF DIFFERENCES.—Question, Mr. D. A. Thomas (Merthyr Tydvil); Answer, Mr. Gerald Balfour 1134

July 20.] *Page*

TRADE TO EAST AFRICAN PROTECTORATE—SUBSIDIES TO BRITISH STEAMSHIPS. —Question, Mr. Orr-Ewing (Ayr Burghs); Answer, Mr. Ritchie 1135

MARRIAGE ALLOWANCE TO WOMEN TELEPHONE OPERATORS.—Question, Mr. Yoxall (Nottingham, W.); Answer, Mr. Austen Chamberlain 1136

RESIGNATIONS OF POST OFFICE SECOND DIVISION CLERKS.—Question, Mr. Yoxall; Answer, Mr. Austen Chamberlain 1156

BRITISH TROOPS IN SOUTH AFRICA—CHARGE ON INDIAN REVENUE.—Question, Mr. Buchanan (Perthshire, E.); Answer, Lord George Hamilton 1156

GUN LIGHTS ON THE "DONEGAL."—Question, Mr. Yerburgh (Chester); Answer, Mr. Arnold-Forster 1137

ADDITIONAL NAVAL ATTACHE.—Question, Mr. Yerburgh; Answer Mr. Arnold-Forster 1137

SUGGESTED APPOINTMENT TO CONGESTED DISTRICTS BOARD OF CHAIRMAN OF KERRY COUNTY COUNCIL.—Question, Mr. Murphy (Kerry, E); Answer, Mr. Wyndham 1137

DISTURBANCE IN DONEGAL STREET, BELFAST.—Question, Mr. Sloan (Belfast, S.); Answer, Mr. Wyndham 1138

INTERFERENCE WITH ERECTION OF AN ARCH AT BELFAST BY A SERGEANT OF THE ROYAL IRISH CONSTABULARY.—Question, Mr. Sloan; Answer, Mr. Wyndham 1138

AVERAGE COST OF INFANTRY SOLDIER IN ENGLAND.—Question, Colonel Long (Worcestershire, Evesham); Answer, Mr. Brodrick 1138

ACTUAL STRENGTH AND AUTHORISED ESTABLISHMENT OF FOOT GUARDS.—Question, Mr. Kenneth Balfour (Christchurch); Answer, Mr. Brodrick ... 1139

TRADE BETWEEN GREAT BRITAIN AND THE COLONIES.—Question, Mr. D. A. Thomas; Answer, Mr. J. Chamberlain 1139

CANADA AND GREAT BRITAIN—IMPORTS OF IRON AND STEEL.—Question, Mr. D. A. Thomas; Answer, Mr. J. Chamberlain 1140

QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE.

SOMALILAND OPERATIONS.—Questions, Mr. Dillon (Mayo, E.); Answers, The Financial Secretary to the War Office (Lord Stanley, Lancashire, Westhoughton) 1140

ARMY PENSIONS—CASE OF JOHN DEVINE, LATE 2ND DRAGOON GUARDS.—Question, Sir Frederick Rasch (Essex, Chelmsford); Answer, Lord Stanley 1141

WOOLWICH ARSENAL EXPLOSION.—Question, Sir Charles McLaren (Leicestershire, Bosworth); Answer, Lord Stanley 1142

THE AUSTRALIAN SQUADRON—COLONIAL CONTRIBUTION TO ANNUAL EXPENDITURE.—Question, Mr. Cathcart Wason (Orkney, Shetland); Answer, The Secretary to the Admiralty (Mr. Arnold-Forster, Belfast, W.) 1142

ROYAL NAVAL RESERVE.—Question, Mr. Cathcart Wason; Answer, Mr. Arnold-Forster 1142

July 20.]

Page

CRETAN CONSUL-GENERAL.—Question, Mr. Joseph Walton (Yorkshire, W.R., Barnsley); Answer, The Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs (Lord Cranborne, Rochester) 1143

BRITISH INVESTMENTS ABROAD AND FOREIGN INVESTMENTS IN GREAT BRITAIN.—Question, Mr. Atherley Jones (Durham, N.W.); Answer, The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr. Ritchie, Croydon) 1143

OFFICE OF WOODS.—FORESTS.—SALE TO LORD PENRHYN.—Question, Mr. Cathcart Wason; Answer, The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr. Arthur Elliot, Durham) 1144

RETURN.—CONDITION OF TRADE AND THE PEOPLE, 1801–1902.—Question, Mr. Gibson Bowles (Lynn Regis); Answer, Mr. Elliot 1144

"PASSIVE RESISTANCE" TO THE EDUCATION RATE.—Question, Sir Charles McLaren; Answer, The Secretary of the Local Government Board (Mr. Grant Lawson, Yorkshire, N.R., Thirsk) 1144

RETURN OF BRITISH COLONIAL IMPORT DUTIES.—Question, Mr. Alfred Davies (Carmarthen Borough); Answer, The President of the Board of Trade (Mr. Gerald Balfour, Leeds, Central) 1145

TARIFF WAR AND BRITISH SHIPPING INDUSTRY.—Question, Sir Charles McLaren; Answer, Mr. Gerald Balfour 1145

FISCAL INQUIRY.—BASIS OF VALUATION.—Question, Sir Charles McLaren; Answer, Mr. Gerald Balfour 1146

OVERHEAD ELECTRIC WIRES.—Question, Mr. Markham (Nottinghamshire, Mansfield); Answer, Mr. Gerald Balfour 1147

VACANT PRISON COMMISSIONERSHIP.—Question, Mr. Malcolm (Suffolk, Stowmarket); Answer, the Under Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mr. Cochrane, Ayrshire, N.) 1149

SCOTTISH LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS.—PARTICIPATION IN POLITICAL CONTESTS.—Question, Mr. Cathcart Wason; Answer, The Lord Advocate (Mr. A. Graham Murray, Buteshire) 1149

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND AND THE CONFESSION OF FAITH.—Question, Mr. F. X. O'Brien (Cork); Answer, Mr. Abraham Murray 1150

LAND LOANS IN IRELAND.—THE ACRES DROMAHAIR.—Question, Mr. O'Dowd (Sligo, S.); Answer, The Attorney-General for Ireland (Mr. Atkinson, Londonderry, N.) 1150

SNEEEM COURTHOUSE.—Questions, Mr. Boland (Kerry, S.) and Mr. Flavin (Kerry, N.); Answer, The Chief Secretary for Ireland (Mr. Wyndham, Dover) 1151

IRISH NATIONAL SCHOOLS—ORAL EXAMINATIONS IN IRISH.—Question, Mr. Thomas O'Donnell (Kerry, W.); Answer, Mr. Wyndham 1152

DISEASE AMONGST BEES IN IRELAND.—Question, Mr. Boland; Answer, Mr. Wyndham 1152

KERRY AND THE CONGESTED DISTRICTS BOARD.—Questions, Mr. Thomas O'Donnell and Mr. Edward Barry (Cork Co., S.); Answers, Mr. Wyndham 1152

July 20.] *Page*

COST OF EXTRA POLICE IN SLIGO.—Question, Mr. O'Dowd; Answer, Mr. Wyndham 1153

POLLUTION OF THE LIFFEY.—Question, Mr. Nannetti (Dublin, College Green); Answer, Mr. Wyndham 1153

MEATH RATE COLLECTOR.—Question, Mr. Kennedy (Westmeath, N.); Answer, Mr. Wyndham 1154

RIVER SHANNON FISHERIES.—Question, Mr. Joyce (Limerick); Answer, Mr. Wyndham 1154

GORDON-BENNETT RACE—DESTRUCTION OF FILMS IN THE POST.—Questions, Mr. Nannetti; Answers, The Postmaster-General (Mr. Austen Chamberlain, Worcestershire, E.) 1155

PORTARLINGTON POSTAL ASSISTANT.—Question, Mr. Delany (Queen's County, Ossory); Answer, Mr. Austen Chamberlain 1156

IMPERIAL DEFENCE.—Question, Mr. Cathcart Wason; Answer, The Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury (Mr. A. J. Balfour, Manchester, E.) 1157

COLONIAL COMPETITION WITH BRITISH INDUSTRIES.—Question, Mr. Humphreys-Owen (Montgomeryshire); Answer, Mr. A. J Balfour 1157

FISCAL INQUIRY—PAY OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES.—Question, Mr. Weir (Ross and Cromarty); Answer, Mr. A. J. Balfour 1157

FISCAL RETURNS.—Questions, Mr. Lough (Islington, W.), Sir Charles McLaren and Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman (Stirling Burgh); Answers, Mr. A. J. Balfour 1158

ADMINISTRATION OF ECCLESIASTICAL FUNDS—POVERTY OF THE CLERGY.—Questions, Mr. Humphreys-Owen and Sir Henry Fowler (Wolverhampton, E.); Answers, Mr. A. J. Balfour 1160

SUGAR IMPORTS.—Question, Mr. Lough; Answer, Mr. A. J. Balfour 1161

SHIPPING AGREEMENTS.—Questions, Mr. Gibson Bowles and Mr. Edmund Robertson (Dundee); Answers, Mr. A. J. Balfour 1161

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.—Questions, Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, Mr. Bryce (Aberdeen, S.), Mr. Gibson Bowles; Answers, Mr. A. J. Balfour 1163

Poor Prisoners' Defence Bill.—Reported, from the Select Committee, with Minutes of Evidence:

Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 264.]

Bill, as amended, re-committed to a Committee of the whole House for Friday, and to be printed. [Bill 285.] 1163

PATRIOTIC FUND.

The Civil Lord of the Admiralty (Mr. Pretyman, Suffolk, Woodbridge) ... 1164

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That leave be given to bring in a Bill to reorganise the administration of the Patriotic Fund."—*(Mr. Pretyman.)*

Mr. Kearley, (Devonport) 1167

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill ordered to be brought in by Mr. Pretyman and Mr. Arnold-Forster.

Patriotic Fund Bill.—To reorganise the administration of the Patriotic Fund, presented accordingly, and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Monday next, and to be printed. [Bill 286.]

SUPPLY. [18TH ALLOTTED DAY].

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. J. W. LOWTHER (Cumberland, Penrith) in the Chair.]

CIVIL SERVICES AND REVENUE DEPARTMENT ESTIMATES, 1903–4. CLASS IV.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a sum not exceeding £617,101, be granted to His Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1904, for the Expenses of the Commissioners of National Education in Ireland, including a Grant in Aid of the Teachers' Pension Fund, Ireland."

Mr. T. W. Russell, (Tyrone, S.) 1168
Mr. Thomas O'Donnell (Kerry, W.) 1169

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a sum, not exceeding £617,001, be granted for the said Service."—(*Mr. Thomas O'Donnell.*)

Mr. Boland (Kerry, S.) 1179
Mr. Charles Craig (Antrim, S.) 1182
Col. Nolan (Galway, N.) 1184
Mr. T. L. Corbett (Down, N.) 1184
Mr. Dillon (Mayo, E.) 1185
Mr. Samuel Young (Cavan, E.) 1189
Mr. Sloan (Belfast, S.) 1190
Mr. Yoxall (Nottinghamshire, W.)... 1191
Mr. Clancy (Dublin County, N.) 1193
Mr. T. W. Russell 1196
Mr. T. M. Healy (Louth N.) 1198
The Chief Secretary for Ireland (Mr. Wyndham, Dover)... 1204
Mr. John Redmond (Waterford) 1201
Mr. Flynn, (Cork, N.) 1211
Mr. William Redmond (Clare, E.)... 1212
Mr. Gilhooly (Cork County, W.) 1213

Question put, and negatived.

Original Question put, and agreed to.

2. £530, to complete the sum for Endowed Schools Commissioners, Ireland.

3. £707, to complete the sum for National Gallery of Ireland.

4. £2,300, to complete the sum for Queen's Colleges, Ireland.

Resolutions to be reported.

Class II.

Motion made, and Question proposed. "That a sum not exceeding £106,499, be granted to His Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1904, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Department of Agricultural and other Industries and Technical Instruction for Ireland, and of the Services administered by that Department, including sundry Grants in Aid.

Mr. Wm. Redmond 1214
Sir Frederick Wills (*Bristol, N.*) 1217
The Chancellor of the Exchequer (*Mr. Ritchie, Croydon*)... 1218
Mr. Field (*Dublin, St. Patrick*) 1218

And, it being half-past Seven of the clock, the Chairman left the Chair to make his Report to the House.

Resolutions to be reported To-morrow; Committee also report Progress; to sit again this evening.

EVENING SITTING.

Supply [18th allotted day].

Considered in Committee :—

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. Jeffreys (Hampshire, N.) in the Chair.]

Civil Services and Revenue Departments Estimates, 1903–4.—Class III.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a sum, not exceeding £33,600, be granted to His Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1904, for criminal prosecutions and other law charges in Ireland."

Mr. J. P. Farrell (*Longford, N.*) 1219

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That Item A (Salaries) be reduced by £500, in respect of the Salary of the Attorney-General for Ireland."—(*Mr. J. P. Farrell*) 1219

Mr. Joseph Devlin (*Kilkenny, N.*) 1221
Mr. P. J. O'Brien (*Tipperary, N.*) 1224
Mr. Delany (*Queen's County, Ossory*) 1225
Mr. Dillon... 1126
Mr. Cullinan (*Tipperary, S.*) 1127
Mr. O'Dowd (*Sligo, S.*) 1229
Mr. O'Kelly (*Mayo, N.*) 1230
The Attorney-General for Ireland (*Mr. Atkinson, Londonderry, N.*) ... 1231
Mr. Kilbride (*Kildare, S.*)... 1237
Mr. William Redmond 1242

And, it being Midnight, the Chairman left the Chair to make his Report to the House.

Committee report Progress; to sit again upon Wednesday.

Military Works (Consolidated Fund).—Committee to consider of making further provision for defraying the expenses of certain Military Works and other military services, and to authorise the issue out of the Consolidated Fund of such sums as may be required for those purposes (King's recommendation signified), this day.—(*Lord Stanley*) 1244

Adjourned at five minutes after Twelve o'clock.

HOUSE OF LORDS: TUESDAY, 21ST JULY, 1903.

COMMISSIONS.—The following Bills have received the Royal Assent:

1. County Councils (Bills in Parliament).
2. Education (Borrowing).
3. Contracts (India Office).
4. Guinea Postal Orders.
5. Elementary Education Amendment.
6. Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (Housing of the Working Classes).
7. Local Government Provisional Orders (Poor Law).
8. Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 9).
9. Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 10).
10. Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 12).
11. Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 14).
12. Local Government Provisional Order (No. 16).
13. Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 17).
14. Local Government Provisional Order (No. 18).
15. Military Lands Provisional Orders.
16. Education Board Provisional Orders Confirmation (East Ham, etc).
17. Hamilton Burgh Provisional Order.
18. Broughty Ferry Gas Provisional Order.
19. Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 5).
20. Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 7).
21. Pier and Harbour Provisional Orders (No. 6).
22. Southampton Harbour.
23. King's College, London.
24. Scunthorpe Urban District Water.
25. Ipswich Gas.
26. Lanarkshire and Dumbartonshire Railway.
27. New Hunstanton Improvement.
28. British Gas Light Company (Norwich)
29. Hastings Tramways (Extensions).
30. Jewish Colonisation Association.
31. Hampton Court Gas.
32. Charing Cross, Euston, and Hampstead Railway.
33. Wolverhampton and Cannock Chase Railway (Extension of Time).
34. London and North Western Railway.
35. Nantwich Urban District Council.
36. Sheffield and South Yorkshire Navigation.
37. Torquay Corporation Water.
38. Nelson Corporation.
39. West Cumberland Electric Tramways.
40. Fishguard and Rosslare Railways and Harbours.
41. Hexham Gas.
42. Cheshire Lines Committee.
43. Highland and Invergarry and Fort Augustus Railway Companies.
44. Port Talbot Railway and Docks.
45. Merthyr Tydfil Urban District Council.
46. Pontypridd Urban District Council.
47. Frinton-on Sea Sea Defences.
48. Cardiff Railway.
49. Aston Manor Improvement.
50. Grindleford, Baslow and Bakewell Railway.
51. London, Brighton, and South Coast Railway.
52. Mersey Docks and Harbour Board.
53. Broadstairs Gas.
54. Hyde Corporation.
55. Leigh Corporation.

July 21.] *Page*

56. Great Northern Railway.
57. Metropolitan District Railway (Various Powers.)
58. Midland and Belfast and Northern Counties Railways.

Sat First.—The Lord Magheramorne, sat first in Parliament after the death his brother 1247

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Scottish American Mortgage Company, Limited, Bill [H.L.].; South Lancashire Tramways Bill [H.L.]; Didcot, Newbury, and Southampton Railway Bill [H.L.].—Commons Amendments considered, and agreed to ... 1247

Sheffield Corporation Bill.—The Chairman of Committees informed the House that the opposition to the Bill was withdrawn; The orders made on Tuesday and Friday last discharged, and Bill committed 1247

Castleblayney, Keady, and Armagh Railway (Extension of Time) Bill.—Moved, That the Order made on the 16th day of March last, "That no Private Bill brought from the House of Commons shall be read a second time after the 18th day of June next," be dispensed with, and that the Bill be now read 2^a; Agreed to; Bill read 2^a accordingly, and committed .. 1247

Great Southern and Western Railway Bill.—Read 3^a, and passed ... 1247

Scottish Central Electric Power Bill [H.L.].—Read 3^a; Amendments made; Bill passed, and sent to the Commons 1247

Gas Orders Confirmation (No. 1) Bill [H.L.]; Water Orders Confirmation Bill [H.L.].—Returned from the Commons agreed to 1247

Carmarthenshire Electric Power Bill [H.L.]; Fife Electric Power Bill [H.L.]; St. Philip's Chapel (Regent Street) Bill [H.L.].—Returned from the Commons Agreed to, with Amendments 1247

Baker Street and Waterloo Railway Bill; Midland Great Western Railway of Ireland Bill; Walker and Wallsend Union Gas Bill.—Returned from the Commons with the Amendments agreed to 1247

Dublin, Wicklow, and Wexford Railway Bill.—Reported from the Select Committee, with Amendments 1248

Perth Corporation (Tramways) Order Confirmation Bill [H.L.].—Read 3^a (according to order), and passed, and sent to the Commons 1248

Aberdeen Corporation Tramways Order Confirmation Bill [H.L.].—Read 3^a (according to order); An Amendment made; Bill passed and sent to the Commons 1248

Drainage and Improvement of Lands (Ireland) Provisional Order Bill; Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (No. 3) Bill; Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (No. 7) Bill; Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 13) Bill.—House in Committee (according to Order): Bills reported without amendment: Standing Committee negatived; and Bills to be read 3^a on Thursday next 1248

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 5) Bill.—Read 3^a (according to Order) and passed 1248

Glasgow Corporation Tramways Order Confirmation Bill [H.L.].—Read 3^{a} (according to Order): Amendments made; Bill passed and sent to the Commons 1248

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

TRADE REPORTS (ANNUAL SERIES).—No. 3036. Persia (Persian Gulf); No. 3037. Japan (Yokohama) 1248

MISCELLANEOUS NO. 3, 1903.—Report of the Committee appointed to inquire into the constitution of the Consular Service, 2nd July, 1903 1248

QUEEN'S COLLEGE, CORK.—Annual Report of the President, for the Session 1902–3 1248

LAND LAW (IRELAND) ACT, 1887 (EVICTION NOTICES).—Return of the number of Eviction Notices filed during the quarter ended 30th June, 1903 ... 1248

COLONIES (ANNUAL).—No. 390. British Honduras (Report for 1902) ... 1248

RAILWAY ACCIDENTS.—Returns of accidents and casualties as reported to the Board of Trade by the several railway companies in the United Kingdom during the three months ended 31st March, 1903, in pursuance of the Regulation of Railways Act (1871); together with reports of the inspecting officers, assistant inspecting officers, and sub-inspectors of the Railway Department to the Board of Trade upon certain accidents which were inquired into.

Presented (by Command), and ordered to lie on the Table... 1249

WINTER ASSIZES ACT, 1876.—Seven Orders in Council of 9th July, 1903, relating to the ensuing Winter Assizes 1249

SEA FISHERIES ACT, 1868 (ORDERS FOR FISHERY GRANTS, 1902–1903).—

Report of the Board of Trade under Part III. of the Sea Fisheries Act, 1868 1249

Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table 1249

NEW BILL.

Light Railways Bill [H.L.].—A Bill to continue and amend the Light Railways Act, 1896, was presented by the Lord Wolverton; read 1^{a}; to be printed; and to be read 2^{a} on Friday next. (No. 167) 1249

Military Lands Bill.—[SECOND READING.]—Order of the Day for the Second Reading read 1249

Lord Ludlow 1249

Moved, "That the Bill be now read 2^{a}."—(*Lord Ludlow.*)

Lord Lamington 1250
The Chairman of Committees (*The Earl of Morley*) 1258
The Under Secretary of State for War (*The Earl of Hardwicke*) 1251

Amendment moved—

"To leave out the word 'now' and add at the end of the Motion, the words 'this day three months.'"—(*The Earl of Wemyss.*)

Lord Wenlock 1253
The Earl of Hardwicke 1254

July 21.] *Page*

Lord Harris 1254
The Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs (*The Marquess of Lansdowne*)... 1255
Earl Spencer 1255

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

On Question, Bill read 2ª, and committed to a Committee of the Whole House on Thursday next.

Motor-Cars Bill.—[H.L.].—House again in Committee (according to Order).

Clause 3.

The Secretary for Scotland (*Lord Balfour of Burleigh*) 1256

Amendment moved—

"In page 2, line 18, after the word 'it' to insert the words 'who resides in that county or county borough.'"—(*Lord Balfour of Burleigh.*)

The Earl of Rosslyn 1257
Lord Balfour of Burleigh 1257

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

The Earl of Rosslyn 1257

Amendment moved—

"In page 2, line 19, after the word 'section' to insert the words 'But any County or Borough Council may withhold or subsequently cancel such licence if in their opinion the applicant for or owner of such licence shall be deemed to have no practical knowledge of the method of driving a car.'"—(*The Earl of Rosslyn*).

Lord Balfour of Burleigh 1258
The Earl of Rosebery 1259
Lord Tweedmouth 1260
Lord Thring 1261
Lord Burghclere 1262
Earl Spencer 1262
Lord Balfour of Burleigh 1262
The Earl of Rosebery 1263
Earl Russell 1264
Lord Burghclere 1264
The President of the Board of Agriculture (*The Earl of Onslow*) 1265
Lord Redesdale 1266
The Earl of Kimberley 1266
Lord Balfour of Burleigh 1266

On Question, their Lordships divided:—Contents, 37; Not-Contents, 52.

Amendment moved—

"In page 2, line 19, after the word 'section,' to insert as fresh paragraphs:—'A licence shall remain in force for a period of twelve months from the date on which it is granted, but shall be renewable, and the same provisions shall apply with respect to the renewal of the licence as apply with respect to the grant of the licence.' 'A person shall not be entitled to hold more than one licence.'"—(*Lord Balfour of Burleigh*).

The Marquess of Bath 1267
Lord Balfour of Burleigh 1267

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

The Earl of Rosslyn 1268

Amendment moved—

"After Sub-section (2) to insert the following new sub-section:—'The Council of a County or Borough may, in their discretion, refuse a licence to anyone who may be physically or mentally incapacitated.'"—(*The Earl of Rosslyn*).

Lord Balfour of Burleigh 1268
The Earl of Rosebery 1269
Lord Heneage 1269

On Question, Amendment negatived.

The Marquess of Granby 1270
Lord Balfour of Burleigh 1270

Amendment moved—

"In page 3, line 4, after the word 'licence' to insert, as a new paragraph: 'Any person whose licence is suspended under this section for a period of six months or more, or who is declared disqualified from obtaining a licence under this section for any such period, may appeal against the order for suspension or disqualification to a Court of quarter sessions in the same manner as a person may appeal who is ordered to be imprisoned without the option of a fine; and the Court by which the suspension or disqualification is ordered may, if they think fit, pending the appeal, defer the operation of the order.'"—(*Lord Balfour of Burleigh*).

Lord Burghclere 1271
Lord Balfour of Burleigh 1271

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Clause 3, as amended, agreed to.

The Earl of Camperdown 1272

Amendment moved—

"After Clause 3, to insert the following new clause: 'Should any accident happen to a passer-by or his horse or vehicle, it shall be the duty of the driver of the motor-car to stop his car and give such assistance as he can; and, if he fail to do so, he shall be guilty of an offence under this Act.'"—(*The Earl of Camperdown.*)

Lord Balfour of Burleigh 1272
The Earl of Camperdown 1272
The Earl of Rosebery 1274

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

Clause 4:—

Consequential Amendments agreed to.

Lord Kelvin 1275

Amendment moved—

"In page 3, line 32, after the word 'police,' to insert as a new paragraph '(*c.*) To secure against the use on public roads of motor-cars, dangerous whether on account of imperfect mechanical construction or excessive engine power, designed for dangerously high speeds.'"—(*Lord Kelvin.*)

Lord Balfour of Burleigh 1257
The Earl of Rosebery 1276

July 21.] *Page*

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

The Earl of Camperdown 1277

Amendment moved—

"In page 3, line 34, after the word 'Board' to insert as a new sub-section: 'Every regulation made in pursuance of this section shall be forthwith laid before both Houses of Parliament.'"—(*The Earl of Camperdown.*)

Lord Balfour of Burleigh 1277

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

Clause 4, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 5 :—

The Earl of Jersey... 1278

Amendment moved—

"In page 3, line 36, after the word 'is' to insert the word 'not.'" —(*The Earl of Jersey*)

Lord Balfour of Burleigh 1279

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

Lord Kelvin 1280

Amendment proposed—

"In page 3, line 36, to leave out the word 'except' and insert the word 'only.'"—(*Lord Kelvin*).

Lord Balfour of Burleigh 1280

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

Lord Tweedmouth 1281

Amendment proposed—

"In page 3, lines 36 and 37, to leave out the words 'except as respects,' and insert the words 'provided that in no town, village, or other populous place, nor within.'"—(*Lord Tweedmouth.*)

Lord Balfour of Burleigh 1281
Lord Tweedmouth 1284
Lord Heneage 1284
The Earl of Northbrook 1284
The Earl of Rosebery 1285
Lord Ribblesdale 1285
Earl Russell 1286
Lord Balfour of Burleigh 1286
Lord Tweedmouth 1287

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

Amendment moved—

"In page 3, line 36, after the word 'repeal,' to insert the words, 'provided that within any limits or place to which that section is applied by regulation made by the Local Government Board with a view to the safety of the public on the application of the Council of any County or County Borough the speed of any motor-car shall not exceed ten miles an hour.'"—(*Lord Tweedmouth.*)

Page

The Marquess of Granby ... 1288
Lord Balfour of Burleigh ... 1288
The Earl of Wemyss ... 1288

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Drafting Amendments agreed to.

Lord Ribblesdale ... 1288

Amendment moved—

"To insert the words, 'and the Local Government Board may impose on any driver of a motor-car infringing such by-law, for the first offence a penalty not exceeding £5, and for any subsequent offence a penalty not exceeding £10, or in the discretion of the Court imprisonment for a term not exceeding one month.'"—(*Lord Ribblesdale.*)

Lord Balfour of Burleigh ... 1289
Lord Ribblesdale ... 1289

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

Consequential Amendments agreed to.

Clause 5, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 6.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 4, line 13, after the word 'months' to insert the words, 'and the Court shall in each case have power to withhold or cancel a licence in addition to the fine or imprisonment.'"—(*The Earl of Rosslyn.*)

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

The Earl of Northbrook ... 1290
Lord Balfour of Burleigh ... 1290

Clause 6 agreed to.

Clauses 7, 8, and 9 agreed to.

Amendment proposed—

"After Clause 9 to insert the following new clause: 'Nothing in this Act shall affect any liability of the driver or owner of a motor-car by virtue of any statute or at common law.'"—(*Lord Balfour of Burleigh.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Clauses 10 and 11 agreed to.

Clause 12:—

The Earl of Aberdeen ... 1291

Amendment proposed—

"In page 5, after Sub-section (1) to insert as a new sub-section: 'In the case of motor cycles to which an attachment is affixed for carrying one or more persons in addition to the rider of the cycle, such attachment shall not be dealt with as a separate vehicle.'"—(*The Earl of Aberdeen.*)

July 21.] Page

Lord Balfour of Burleigh 1291

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

Clause 12 agreed to.

Bill reported, with Amendments, to the House.

Lord Balfour of Burleigh 1292

Bill re-committed to the Standing Committee; and to be printed as amended.

Metropolitan Streets Bill [SECOND READING].—Order of the Day for the second reading read.

Lord Belper 1292

On question, Bill read 2ª (according to Order), and committed to a Committee of the Whole House on Tuesday next.

MOTOR-CAR PROSECUTION.

Lord Heneage 1293
Lord Balfour of Burleigh 1293

House adjourned at ten minutes before Eight o'clock, to Thursday next, half-past Ten o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS: TUESDAY, 21ST JULY, 1903.

The House met at Two of the Clock.

COMMISSION.—Message to attend the Lords Commissioners.

The House went; and being returned—

MR. SPEAKER reported the Royal Assent to a number of Bills 1294

THE CHAIRMAN OF WAYS AND MEANS.—The Clerk at the Table informed the House of the unavoidable absence of the Chairman of Ways and Means 1294

UNOPPOSED PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Derby Gas Bill [LORDS].—Read the third time, and passed, with Amendments 1294

Dudley, Stourbridge, and District Tramways Bill [LORDS].—Read the third time, and passed, with an Amendment 1294

Lochnell Estate Bill [LORDS].—Read the third time, and passed, without Amendment 1294

Poole and District Electric Traction Bill [LORDS].—Read the third time, and passed, with Amendments 1294

Taff Vale Railway Bill [LORDS].—[Not amended], considered; to be read the third time 1295

Pier and Harbour Provisional Orders (No. 5) Bill.—Lords' Amendment considered, and agreed to 1295

Gas Orders Confirmation (No. 2) Bill [LORDS].—Read the third time, and passed, with Amendments 1295

STANDING ORDERS.—Resolutions reported from the Select Committee:—

1. "That, in the case of the South Western and Isle of Wight Junction Railway Bill [Lords], the Standing Orders ought to be dispensed with: That the parties be permitted to proceed with their Bill."

2. "That, in the case of the Naval Works (Portsmouth Barrack Site) Bill, the Standing Orders ought to be dispensed with; That the Bill be permitted to proceed."

Resolutions agreed to 1295

South Western and Isle of Wight Junction Railway Bill [LORDS].—Report [this day] from the Select Committee on Standing Orders read.

Bill to be read a second time 1295

Bristol Corporation Bill [LORDS]; Gosport and Fareham Tramways Bill [Lords]; Hove, Worthing, and District Tramways Bill [Lords]; South Eastern and London, Chatham and Dover Railways Bill [Lords].—Reported, with Amendments; Reports to lie upon the Table, and to be printed ... 1295

Board of Agriculture and Fisheries Bill [LORDS].—Read the first time; to be read a second time to-morrow, and to be printed. [Bill 290.] ... 1295

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.

That they have agreed to—City and South London Railway Bill; Romford and District Tramways Bill; Newcastle-on-Tyne Electric Supply Bill; Woolwich Borough Council Bill, with Amendments.

That they have passed a Bill, intituled, "An Act for incorporating and conferring powers on the Scottish Central Electric Power Company." [Scottish Central Electric Power Bill (Lords).]

Scottish Central Electric Power Bill [LORDS].—Read the first time; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills 1296

PETITIONS.

CHEAP TRAINS BILL.—Petition from Woolwich, in favour; to lie upon the Table 1296

COAL MINES REGULATION BILL.—Petition from Glyncymmer, in favour; to lie upon the Table 1296

DETENTION OF POOR PERSONS (SCOTLAND) BILL.—Petition from Dunnichen, in favour; to lie upon the Table 1296

LICENCES RENEWAL AND TRANSFER BILL AND LICENSING LAW (COMPENSATION FOR NON-RENEWAL) BILL.—Petition from Urmston, against; to lie upon the Table 1296

LICENSING (SCOTLAND) ACTS AMENDMENT BILL.—Petition from Leith, in favour; to lie upon the Table 1296

PREVENTION OF CORRUPTION BILL.—Petitions, in favour; from Briton Ferry; Glyncorrwg; and Nantymoel; to lie upon the Table 1296

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS ON SUNDAY BILL.—Petition from Monton Green, in favour; to lie upon the Table 1296

July 21.] *Page*

TRADE DISPUTES BILL.—Petition from Glyncymmer, in favour; to lie upon the Table 1296

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

INEBRIATES ACT, 1898, PRISONS (SCOTLAND) ACT, 1877.—Paper [presented 8th June] to be printed [No. 295.] 1296

WINTER ASSIZES ACT, 1876 AND 1877.—Copies presented, of Seven Orders in Council of 9th July, 1903, relating to the ensuing Winter Assizes [by Act]; to lie upon the Table 1297

QUEEN'S COLLEGE CORK.—Copy presented, of Report of the President for the Session 1902-3, with Appendices [by Command]; to lie upon the Table ... 1297

LAND LAW (IRELAND) ACT, 1887 (EVICTION NOTICES).—Copy presented, of Return of Eviction Notices filed during the quarter ended 30th June, 1903 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 1297

RAILWAY ACCIDENTS.—Copy presented, of Returns of Accidents and Casualties as reported to the Board of Trade by the several Railway Companies in the United Kingdom during the three months ending 31st March, 1903, together with Reports of the Inspecting Officers, Assistant Inspecting Officers, and Sub-Inspectors of the Railway Department to the Board of Trade upon certain accidents which were inquired into [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 1297

SEA FISHERIES ACT, 1868.—Copy presented, of Report of the Board of Trade under Part III. of the Act. Orders for Fishery Grants, 1902-3 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 266.] 1297

TRADE REPORTS (ANNUAL SERIES).—Copies presented, of Diplomatic and Consular Reports, Annual Series, Nos. 3036 and 3037 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 1297

CONSULAR SERVICE (MISCELLANEOUS, No. 3, 1903).—Copy presented, of Report of the Committee appointed to inquire into the constitution of the Consular Service 2nd July, 1903 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table ... 1297

METROPOLITAN WATER COMPANIES.—Return ordered, "of the Accounts, as they are respectively made up, of the Metropolitan Water Companies, and of the Staines Reservoirs Joint Committee to the 30th day of September and the 31st day of December, 1902 (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper, No. 286, of Session 1902)."—(*Mr. Grant Lawson.*) 1297

BRITISH COLONIES (DUTIES ON IMPORTS).—Return ordered, "of the amounts received respectively by British Colonies from Duties on Imports in the years 1882, 1892, and the last year published and their population at those periods."—(*Mr. Alfred Davies.*) 1298

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

DELAYS IN FIXING FAIR RENTS IN LIMERICK.—Question, Mr. William Redmond (Clare, E.); Answer, Mr. Wyndham 1298

EXPORTS TO FOREIGN COUNTRIES OF COTTON AND WOOLLEN GOODS AND CUTLERY.—Question, Col. Denny (Kilmarnock Burghs); Answer, Mr. Gerald Balfour 1298

RELATIVE PRICES OF CORN IN ENGLAND AND ITALY.—Question, Mr. Gibson Bowles (Lynn Regis); Answer, Mr. Gerald Balfour.. 1299

COTTON TRADE—DEFICIENCY OF RAW COTTON.—Question, Sir William Holland (Yorkshire, W.R., Rotherham); Answer, Mr. Gerald Balfour 1299

SAFETY OF TRAVELLING PUBLIC ON LANCASHIRE AND YORKSHIRE RAILWAY.—Question, Mr. Marshall Hall (Lancashire, Southport); Answer, Mr. Gerald Balfour 1299

SUPERANNUATION ALLOWANCE TO SERVANTS OF METROPOLITAN BOROUGHS.—Question, Sir George Fardell (Paddington, S.); Answer, Mr. Walter Long 1300

SMALL POX—ISOLATION OR VACCINATION EXPOSED TO INFECTION.—Question, Colonel Sadler (Middlesbrough); Answer, Mr. Walter Long 1301

CLASSIFICATION OF TELEGRAPH OFFICES.—Question, Mr. Tankerville Chamberlayne (Southampton); Answer, Mr. Austen Chamberlain 1301

KISHNIEFF OUTRAGES—PUNISHMENT OF OFFENDERS.—Question, Mr. Cohen (Islington, E.); Answer, Lord Cranborne 1301

CORN DUTY—RESULT TO FARMERS.—Question, Mr. Lambert (Devonshire, South Molton); Answer, Mr. Ritchie... 1302

PENSION FOR CUSTOMS WATCHER CHARLES UPTON.—Question, Captain Norton (Newington, W.); Answer, Mr. Elliot 1302

CONTEMPT OF COURT—SUGGESTED FRESH LEGISLATION.—Question, Mr. Field (Dublin, St. Patrick): Answer, Sir Robert Finlay 1302

REPAIR OF IRISH NATIONAL SCHOOLS DAMAGED BY STORM.—Question, Sir Thomas Esmonde (Wexford, N.); Answer, Mr. Atkinson... 1303

ERECTION OF NATIONAL SCHOOLS IN IRELAND—REPORT OF COMMITTEE.—Question, Mr. T. M. Healy (Louth, N.); Answer, Mr. Atkinson 1303

AGRICULTURAL AND TECHNICAL INSTRUCTION IN IRELAND—RETURN OF GRANTS MADE.—Question, Mr. T. M. Healy; Answer, Mr. Atkinson ... 1303

EXTENSION OF MULLINGAR RIFLE RANGE,—Question, Mr. Hayden (Roscommon, S.); Answer, Mr. Brodrick 1304

TRAINING OF MILITARY CADETS AFTER LEAVING ROYAL MILITARY COLLEGE. —Question, Captain Norton; Answer, Mr. Brodrick 1305

WAR OFFICE CONTRACTS—ALLEGED INFRINGEMENT OF FAIR WAGE RESOLUTION BY MESSRS. FRANCES AND SON, OF DEPTFORD.—Question, Capt. Norton; Answer, Mr. Brodrick 1305

PRIOR ASSAULT CASE.—Question, Mr. H. C. Richards (Finsbury, E.); Answer, Mr. Brodrick 1305

THE FISCAL INQUIRY.—Question, Sir Edgar Vincent (Exeter); Answer, Mr. A. J. Balfour 1306

WOOLWICH EXPLOSION—PROVISION FOR WIDOWS AND CHILDREN OF MEN KILLED.—Question, Mr. Tankerville Chamberlayne; Answer, Mr. A. J. Balfour 1306

QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE.

MILITARY WORKS BILL.—Question, Mr. Gibson Bowles (Lynn Regis); Answer, The Secretary of State for War (Mr. Brodrick, Surrey, Guildford) ... 1307

July 21.] *Page*

IRISH TAILORS AND ARMY CONTRACTS.—Question, Mr. Field (Dublin, St. Patrick); Answer, The Financial Secretary to the War Office (Lord Stanley, Lancashire, Westhoughton) 1307

COLONIAL IMPORTS OF FOREIGN GOODS.—Questions, Mr. Winston Churchill (Oldham); Answers, The Secretary of State for the Colonies (Mr. J. Chamberlain, Birmingham, W.) 1308

COLONIAL COMMERCIAL TREATIES.—Question, Mr. Black, (Banffshire); Answer, Mr. J. Chamberlain 1309

COMMISSION OF INQUIRY ON NATIVE LABOUR IN BRITISH SOUTH AFRICA.—Question, Sir Charles Dilke (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean); Answer, Mr. J. Chamberlain 1308

CANADIAN TARIFFS.—Question, Mr. Black; Answer, Mr. J. Chamberlain ... 1309

THE COLONIES AND THE BRUSSELS SUGAR CONVENTION.—Question, Mr. Lough (Islington, W.); Answer, Mr. J. Chamberlain 1310

BRUSSELS SUGAR CONVENTION—BRITISH OBLIGATIONS.—Question, Mr. Lough; Answer, Mr. J. Chamberlain 1310

BRUSSELS SUGAR CONVENTION—COLONIAL BOUNTIES.—Question, Mr. Lough; Answer, Mr. J. Chamberlain 1310

RAILWAY CONSTRUCTION IN SOUTH AFRICA—NATIVE LABOUR.—Question, Sir Charles Dilke; Answer, Mr. J. Chamberlain 1311

PLAGUE IN HONG-KONG.—Question, Mr. Weir (Ross and Cromarty); Answer, Mr. J. Chamberlain 1311

HONG-KONG POST OFFICE.—Question, Mr. Weir; Answer, Mr. J. Chamberlain 1312

COMMISSION ON INDIAN POLICE—REPORT.—Question, Mr. Weir; Answer, The Under Secretary of State for India (Earl Percy, Kensington, S.) 1312

INDIA AND THE BRUSSELS SUGAR CONVENTION.—Questions, Mr. Lough and Mr. Gibson Bowles; Answers, Earl Percy 1313

CHINESE RAILWAYS.—Question, Mr. Weir; Answer, The Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs (Lord Cranborne, Rochester) 1313

NATIONAL EXPENDITURE—THE SINKING FUNDS.—Questions, Mr. Winston Churchill, Mr. Gibson Bowles, and Mr. Lough; Answers, The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr. Ritchie, Croydon) 1313

RETALIATORY TARIFFS AND THE NATIONAL INCOME.—Question, Mr. Black; Answer, Mr. Ritchie 1314

MERCANTILE MARINE COMMITTEE.—Question, Sir Charles Dilke; Answer, The President of the Board of Trade (Mr. Gerald Balfour, Leeds, Central) ... 1315

IRISH TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS—SLEEPING ACCOMODATION.—Question, Mr. Charles Craig (Antrim, S.); Answer, Mr. Gerald Balfour 1315

LONDON PRINTING TRADE DISPUTE.—Question, Mr. Skewes Cox (Surrey, Kingston); Answer, Mr. Gerald Balfour 1316

HIGHLAND WEAVING INDUSTRY.—Question, Mr. Weir; Answer, The Lord Advocate (Mr. A. Graham Murray, Buteshire) 1316

POLLUTION OF THE RIVERS IN FIFESHIRE.—Question, Mr. Eugene Wason (Clackmannan and Kinross); Answer, Mr. A. Graham Murray 1316

KERRY AND THE CONGESTED DISTRICTS BOARD.—Question, Mr. Thomas O'Donnell (Kerry, W.); Answer, The Attorney-General for Ireland (Mr. Atkinson, Londonderry, N.) 1317

BELTURBET RENT COLLECTOR AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT AUDITOR.—Question, Mr. J. P. Farrell (Longford, N.); Answer, Mr. Atkinson 1318

DUBLIN SORTING OFFICE BANK HOLIDAYS.—Question, Mr. Nannetti (Dublin, College Green); Answer, The Postmaster-General (Mr. Austen Chamberlain, Worcestershire, E.) 1318

DUBLIN SORTING OFFICE—HOLIDAY GRIEVANCES.—Question, Mr. Nannetti; Answer, Mr. Austen Chamberlain 1319

FISCAL INQUIRY—DUTY ON FOOD STUFFS.—Question, Mr. Black; Answer, The Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury (Mr. A. J. Balfour, Manchester, E.) 1319

THE GOVERNMENT AND THE LICENSING QUESTION.—Question, Sir Wilfred Lawson (Cornwall, Camborne); Answer, Mr. A. J. Balfour 1319

TOWN HOLDINGS COMMITTEE.—Questions, Mr. Field and Mr. Flavin (Kerry, N.); Answers, Mr. A. J. Balfour 1320

NATIONAL MEMORIAL TO QUEEN VICTORIA.—Questions, Sir J. Fergusson (Manchester, N.E.) and Mr. Gibson Bowles; Answers, Mr. Victor Cavendish (Derbyshire, W.) 1320

NEW BILLS.

Parliamentary and Electoral Reform Bill.—"To amend the Law relating to Electoral qualifications, the registration of Voters, Parliamentary Elections, and to make provisions for the payment of Election expenses and of Members of Parliament, and the duration of Parliament," presented by Mr. Keir Hardie; supported by Sir William Allan, Mr. Shackleton, Mr. John Hope, and Dr. Macnamara; to be read a second time upon Thursday, and to be printed. [Bill 287.] 1321

Mortgage of Premises Bill.—"To amend the Law in regard to the Mortgaging of Premises containing trade machinery," presented by Sir William Holland; supported by Mr. Crombie and Mr. Parkes; to be read a second time upon Tuesday next, and to be printed. [Bill 288.] 1321

Bills of Exchange Bill.—"To provide for the registration of dishonoured Bills of Exchange and to allow summary judgment thereon," presented by Sir William Holland; supported by Mr. Crombie and Mr. Parkes; to be read a second time upon Tuesday next, and to be printed. [Bill 289.]... ... 1321

Irish Land Bill.—[THIRD READING.].—Order for Third Reading read.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now read the third time."

July 21.] Page

Mr. John Redmond (Waterford) 1322
Colonel Saunderson (Armagh, N.)... 1329
Sir. H. Campbell-Bannerman (Stirling Burghs) 1333
The Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury (Mr. A. J. Balfour, Manchester, E.) 1336
Mr. Dillon (Mayo, E.) 1340
Mr. T. W. Russell (Tyrone, S.) 1347
Mr. Wm. O'Brien (Cork) 1349
Mr. Samuel Young (Cavan, E.) 1354
Mr. Claude Lowther (Cumberland, Eskdale) 1354
Mr. Tomkinson (Cheshire, Crewe)... 1356
Mr. Lambert (Devonshire, South Molton)... 1359
Mr. Herbert Robertson (Hackney, S.) 1364
Mr. Cremer (Shoreditch, Haggerston) 1366
Mr. T. M. Healy (Louth, N.) 1368
Mr. Leamy (Kildare, N.) 1370
Mr. Norman (Wolverhampton, S.)... 1372
Mr. Lough (Islington, W.) 1374

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 317; Noes, 20. (Division List No. 175.)

Military Works (Consolidated Fund).

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. Jeffreys (Hampshire, N.) in the Chair.]

The Secretary of State for War (Mr. Brodrick, Surrey, Guildford) ... 1379

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That it is expedient to make further provisions for defraying the expenses of certain Military Works and other Military Services, and to authorise the issue out of the Consolidated Fund of such sums, not exceeding £5,000,000, as may be required for those purposes, and to make provision for raising, in the manner provided by Section 2 of the Military Works Act, 1897, the sums so issued by terminable annuities for a period not exceeding thirty years from the date of borrowing."—(*Mr. Secretary Brodrick*).

Sir Charles Dilke (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean) 1383
Mr. Gibson Bowles (Lynn Regis) 1383
Mr. Black (Banffshire) 1386
Mr. Winston Churchill (Oldham)... 1386
Mr. Courtney Warner (Staffordshire, Lichfield) 1388
Major Seeley (Isle of Wight) 1388
Mr. Lough (Islington, W.)... 1389

And, it being half-past Seven of the Clock, the Chairman left the Chair to Report to the House.

Committee report Progress; to sit again this evening.

EVENING SITTING.

MILITARY WORKS (CONSOLIDATED FUND).

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. **Jeffreys** (Hampshire, N.) in the Chair.]

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That it is expedient to make further provisions for defraying the expenses of certain Military Works and other Military Services, and to authorise the issue out of the Consolidated Fund of such sums, not exceeding £5,000,000, as may be required for those purposes, and to make provision for raising, in the manner provided by Section 2 of the Military Works Act, 1897, the sums so issued by terminable annuities for a period not exceeding thirty years from the date of borrowing."—(*Mr. Secretary Brodrick.*)

Mr. O'Mara (Kilkenny, S.) 1390

Mr. Whitley (Halifax) 1391

Mr. Dalziel (Kirkcaldy Burghs) 1392

Mr. Gretton (Derbyshire, S.) 1392

Mr. Lloyd-George (Carnarvon Boroughs) 1393

Mr. Brodrick 1393

Mr. Dalziel 1394

Amendment proposed—

"To leave out '£5,000,000,' and insert '£4,000,000.'"—(*Mr. Dalziel.*)

Question proposed, "That '£5,000,000' stand part of the Question."

Mr. Buchanan (Perthshire, E.) 1395

Mr. Brodrick 1395

Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman (Stirling Burghs) 1396

Sir John Colomb (Great Yarmouth) 1397

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 118; Noes, 68. (Division List No. 176.)

Original Question put and agreed to.

Resolution to be reported To-morrow.

Licensing Acts (Scotland) Consolidation and Amendment Bill.—As amended (by the Standing Committee), further considered.

Proceedings resumed on Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 25, lines 28 and 29, to leave out the words 'in that part of the premises where exciseable liquor is sold or consumed.'"—(*Sir John Leng.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Bill."

Mr. Caldwell (Lanarkshire, Mid.)... 1399

Mr. Galloway (Manchester, S.W.)... 1400

The Solicitor-General for Scotland (Mr. Scott Dickson, Glasgow, Bridgeton) 1400

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 135; Noes, 75. (Division List No. 177.)

Mr. Caldwell 1403

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 25, line 30, to leave out from the word 'Act,' to the end of line 34."—(*Mr. Caldwell*).

July 21.] *Page*

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Bill."

Mr. A. Graham Murray 1403
Mr. Black 1403
Mr. Hunter Craig (*Lanarkshire, Govan*) 1404

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 153; Noes, 85. (Division List, No. 178.)

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page, 26, line 19, to leave out the word 'license.'"—(*Mr. Shaw-Stewart.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 26, line 19, after the word 'holder,' to insert the words 'of any form of certificate.'"—(*Mr. Shaw-Stewart.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 27, to leave out Clause 45."—(*The Lord Advocate.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Mr. Caldwell 1407

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 29, line 5, after the word 'than' to insert the word 'half.'"—(*Mr. Caldwell.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'half' be there inserted in the Bill."

Mr. A. Graham Murray 1408

Question put and negatived.

Mr. A. Graham Murray 1408

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 29, line 22, to leave out from the word 'in' to the word 'within,' in line 23, and insert the words 'default of payment.'"—(*The Lord Advocate.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 29, line 25, to leave out the word 'of' and insert the words 'not exceeding.'"—(*The Lord Advocate.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 29, line 32, to leave out from the word 'in' to the word 'within' in line 33, and insert the words 'default of payment.'"—(*The Lord Advocate.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 29, line 35, to leave out the words 'of two calendar,' and insert the words 'not exceeding two.'"—(*The Lord Advocate.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 29, line 41, to leave out from the word 'in' to the word 'within' on page 30, line 1, and insert the words 'default of payment.'"—(*The Lord Advocate.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 30, line 3, to leave out the words 'of four calendar,' and insert the words 'not exceeding four.'"—(*The Lord Advocate.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 30, line 7, to leave out from the word 'null' to end of clause."—(*The Lord Advocate.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 33, line 21, to leave out from the word 'therein' to the word 'shall' in line 24."—(*The Lord Advocate.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Mr. Gretton (Derbyshire, S.) 1409

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 34, to leave out Clause 62."—(*Mr. Gretton.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out to the word 'or' in line 3, stand part of the Bill."

Mr. Crombie (Kincardineshire) 1410
Mr. A. Graham Murray 1410
Mr. Weir (Ross and Cromarty) 1410
Sir Charles Renshaw (Renfrewshire, W.) 1411
Sir Herbert Maxwell (Wigtonshire) 1411
Mr. Scott Dickson 1411
Mr. Haldane (Haddingtonshire) 1411
Mr. John Wilson (Falkirk Burghs) 1412
Sir Lewis McIver (Edinburgh, W.) 1412
Mr. Dalziel 1413
Sir James Fergusson (Manchester, N.E.) 1414
Mr. Black 1414
Mr. Alexander Cross (Glasgow, Camlachie) 1415
Mr. John Wilson (Glasgow, St. Rollox) 1416
Mr. Theodore Taylor (Lancashire, Radcliffe) 1416
Mr. Corbett (Glasgow, Tradeston) 1416
Mr. Pirie (Aberdeen, N.) 1417

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 149; Noes, 104. (Division List No. 179.)

Sir J. Stirling Maxwell (Glasgow, College) 1419

July 21.] *Page*

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 34, to leave out lines 3, 4, and 5, and insert the words 'or court therewith occupied, and every one collecting rates or taxes therein shall be guilty of an offence under this Act.'"—(*Sir J. Stirling-Maxwell.*)

Mr. Galloway 1420

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 34, line 6, to leave out from the word 'person' to the word 'without' in line 9, and insert the words 'trafficking in any spirits or other exciseable liquors in any place or premises.'"—(*The Lord Advocate.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 34, line 13, to leave out the words 'sum of' and insert the words 'sum not exceeding.'"—(*Mr. Caldwell.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendments proposed to the Bill—

"In page 34, line 13, to leave out the word 'seven' and insert the word 'fifty.'"

"In page 34, line 14, to leave out from the word 'in' to the word 'the' in line 16, and insert the words 'default of immediate payment.'"—(*The Lord Advocate.*)

Amendments agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 34, line 17, to leave out the words 'sum of,' and insert the words 'sum not exceeding.'"—(*Mr. Caldwell.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendments proposed to the Bill—

"In page 34, line 20, to leave out the word 'fifteen' and insert the words 'one hundred.'"

"In page 34, line 21, to leave out from the word 'in' to the word 'the' in line 24, and insert the words 'default of immediate payment.'"

"In page 34, line 24, to leave out the word 'of' and insert the words 'not exceeding.'"—(*The Lord Advocate*).

Amendments agreed to.

Amendments proposed to the Bill—

"In page 34, line 28, to leave out the word 'thirty,' and insert the words 'one hundred.'"

"In page 34, line 29, to leave out from the word 'in' to the word 'the' in line 31, and insert the words 'default of immediate payment.'"

"In page 34, line 32, to leave out the word 'of,' and insert the words 'not exceeding.'"

"In page 34, line 34, to leave out from the word 'same' to the word 'Provided' in line 38."

"In page 34, line 41, to leave out from the word 'of' to the word 'under' in line 42, and insert the words 'such trafficking.'"

"In page 35, line 4, to leave out from the word 'for' to the word 'may' in line 6, and insert the words 'such trafficking.'"

"In page 35, line 8, to leave out from the word 'evidence' to end of Clause."—(*The Lord Advocate.*)

Amendments agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 35, line 24, to leave out from the word 'coming' to end of Clause."—(*The Lord Advocate.*)

Question proposed "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Bill."

Mr. Caldwell	1422
Mr. A. Graham Murray	1423

Question put, and negatived.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 36, line 30, to leave out the word 'by,' and insert the words 'under the provisions of.'"—(*The Lord Advocate.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Mr. Crombie	1423

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 37, lines 24 and 25, to leave out the words 'and not under the care or protection of some suitable person.'"—(*Mr. Crombie.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Bill."

Mr. A. Graham Murray	1424
Mr. Dalziel...	1425
Mr. Caldwell	1425
Mr. Henry J. Wilson (*Yorkshire, W.R., Holmfirth*)	1426

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 152; Noes, 72. (Division List No. 180.)

And, it being after Midnight, further consideration of the Bill, as amended (in the Standing Committee), stood adjourned.

Bill, as amended (in the Standing Committee), to be further considered to-morrow.

Adjourned at ten minutes after Twelve o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS: WEDNESDAY, 22ND JULY, 1903.

The House met at Two of the Clock.

UNOPPOSED PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON LAW, ETC.—Ordered, That the Standing Committee on Law, etc., have leave to sit this day, after a quarter-past Two, during the Sitting of the House.—(*Lord Edmund Fitzmaurice.*) 1429

Middlesbrough Corporation Bill.—Lords' Amendments considered, and agreed to 1429

Tynemouth and District Tramways Bill [LORDS].—Verbal Amendments made; Bill read the third time, and passed, with Amendments 1429

Birmingham Corporation Bill [LORDS]; Chatham and District Light Railways Bill [Lords].—As amended, considered; to be read the third time ... 1429

Exeter Corporation Bill [LORDS].—As amended, considered; Amendments made; Bill to be read the third time 1429

Willesden Urban District Council Bill [LORDS].—As amended, considered; to be read the third time 1429

ROTHESAY CORPORATION ORDER CONFIRMATION.—Bill to confirm a Provisional Order under The Private Legislation Procedure (Scotland) Act, 1899, relating to the Royal Burgh of Rothesay, ordered to be brought in by the Lord Advocate and Mr. Solicitor-General for Scotland.

Rothesay Corporation Order Confirmation Bill.—"To confirm a Provisional Order under The Private Legislation Procedure (Scotland) Act, 1899, relating to the Royal Burgh of Rothesay," presented accordingly; and ordered to be considered upon Friday 1429

Somerset and District Electric Power Bill [LORDS].—Reported with Amendments; Report to lie upon the Table... 1430

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

COLONIAL REPORTS (ANNUAL).—Copy presented, of Colonial Report No. 390 (British Honduras, Annual Report for 1902) [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 1430

AFRICA (No. 9, 1903).—Copy presented, of Memorandum showing position of the four African Protectorates administered by the Foreign Office in June, 1903, arranged in chronological order of date of administration [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

Paper laid upon the Table by the Clerk of the House 1430

INQUIRY INTO CHARITIES (COUNTY OF WILTS).—Further Return Relative thereto [ordered 9th August, 1901—*Mr. Griffith Boscawen*]; to be printed. [No. 267.] 1430

BRITISH VESSELS SOLD TO FOREIGNERS.—Returned ordered, "of the number and tonnage of vessels sold from United Kingdom ownership under the British flag to foreign ownership under foreign flags in each year from 1875 to 1902, in the following form—

Year.	Number of Steamships.	Tonnage.	Number of Sailing Ships.	Tonnage.
1875				
1876				
1877				
1878				
1879				
1880				
1881				
1882				
1883				
1884				
1885				
1886				
1887				
1888				
1889				
1890				
1891				
1892				
1893				
1894				
1895				
1896				
1897				
1898				
1899				
1900				
1901				
1902				

—(*Mr. Runciman.*) 1430

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

HOME OFFICE—FISCAL INQUIRY—RESPONSE TO APPEAL FOR RELIEF OF DISTRESS IN 1842.—Question, Mr. D. A. Thomas (Merthyr Tydvil); Answer, Mr. Akers Douglas 1431

DETENTION OF A SIRDAR AND COOLIES ON EASTERN BENGAL RAILWAY.—Question, Mr. Weir (Ross and Cromarty); Answer, Lord George Hamilton 1433

LOCATION OF MADRAS WORKHOUSE.—Question, Mr. Herbert Roberts (Denbighshire, W.); Answer, Lord George Hamilton 1433

TROOPS IN SOUTH AFRICA—INDIA'S CONTRIBUTION.—Question, Sir Mancherjee Bhownaggree (Bethnal Green, N.E.); Answer, Lord George Hamilton ... 1433

SWIMMING IN THE MERCANTILE MARINE.—Question, Sir John Leng (Dundee); Answer, Mr. Gerald Balfour 1434

FOOD IMPORTS FROM THE COLONIES AND FOREIGN COUNTRIES.—Question, Mr. Seely (Lincoln); Answer, Mr. Gerald Balfour 1434

GERMAN MARKETS AND COUNTRIES ADOPTING RETALIATORY DUTIES.—Question, Sir William Holland (Yorkshire, W.R., Rotherham); Answer, Mr. Gerald Balfour 1434

July 22.] *Page*

REPATRIATION OF MERCHANT SEAMEN.—Question, Sir Robert Ropner (Stockton); Answer, Mr. Gerald Balfour 1436

TRAINING IN THE NAVY—DIVING AND SWIMMING.—Question, Sir John Leng; Answer, Mr. Arnold-Forster 1435

HOLIDAYS IN THE CENTRAL TELEGRAPH OFFICE.—Question, Mr. Patrick O'Brien (Kilkenny); Answer, Mr. Austen Chamberlain 1435

CENTRAL TELEGRAPH OFFICE—PROMOTION OF TUBE ATTENDANTS.—Question, Mr. Patrick O'Brien; Answer, Mr. Austen Chamberlain 1436

POSTMEN'S ALLOWANCES.—Question, Mr. James O'Connor (Wicklow, W.); Answer, Mr. Austen Chamberlain 1436

RE-INSTALMENT OF BRITISH POSTAL SERVANTS FROM SOUTH AFRICA.—Question, Mr. James O'Connor; Answer, Mr. Austen Chamberlain 1437

REPORT ON CONSULAR SERVICE.—Question, Mr. Moon (St. Pancras, N.); Answer, Lord Cranborne 1437

WITHDRAWAL OF SCHOOL CHILDREN DURING RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION.—Question, Mr. Platt-Higgins (Salford, N.); Answer, Sir William Anson ... 1437

LLANGOLLEN SCHOOL BOARD—DIFFERENT TREATMENT OF BOARD SCHOOLS AND VOLUNTARY SCHOOLS.—Question, Mr. George Kenyon (Denbigh); Answer, Sir William Anson 1438

VIVISECTION EXPERIMENTS WITHOUT ANÆSTHETICS—FEEDING EXPERIMENTS.—Question, Mr. Perks (Lincolnshire, Louth); Answer, Mr. Akers Douglas 1438

PENSIONS FOR RETIRED OFFICERS RE-EMPLOYED DURING SOUTH AFRICAN WAR.—Question, Mr. Pirie (Aberdeen, N.); Answer, Mr. Brodrick ... 1439

APPOINTMENTS TO THE ARMY FROM THE MILITIA—NEW REGULATIONS.—Question, Mr. Samuel Evans (Glamorganshire, Mid); Answer, Mr. Brodrick... 1439

HOME SERVICE FOR THE SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE REGIMENT.—Question, Mr. Shaw (Stafford); Answer, Mr. Brodrick 1439

OFFICERS AND THE ROYAL TOAST—WATER INSTEAD OF WINE.—Question, Mr. Broadhurst (Leicester); Answer, Mr. Brodrick... 1440

EFFICIENCY OF VOLUNTEERS.—Question, Sir Thomas Dewar (Tower Hamlets, St. George's); Answer, Mr. Brodrick... 1440

INDIAN CONTRIBUTION TO MILITARY EXPENDITURE.—Question, Sir Mancherjee Bhownaggree; Answer, Mr. Brodrick... 1440

INDIAN LABOUR FOR SOUTHERN RHODESIA.—Question, Sir Thomas Dewar; Answer, Mr. J. Chamberlain 1441

TREATMENT OF BRITISH INDIAN SUBJECTS IN THE SOUTH AFRICAN COLONIES.—Questions, Sir Mancherjee Bhownaggree; Answers, Mr. J. Chamberlain 1441

QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE.

NORTHWICH MILITARY CAMP.—Question, Mr. Swift MacNeill (Donegal, S.); Answer, The Financial Secretary to the War Office (Lord Stanley, Lancashire, Westhoughton) 1442

FISCAL INQUIRY—FOOD IMPORTS.—Question, Mr. Lambert (Devonshire, South Molton); Answer, The Secretary of State for the Colonies (Mr. J. Chamberlain, Birmingham, W.) 1443

IMPORTS OF WOOL AND HIDES.—Question, Mr. Black (Banffshire); Answer, Mr. J. Chamberlain 1443

GERMANY AND CANADA.—Question, Mr. Black; Answer, Mr. J. Chamberlain ... 1444

ASSAM COOLIE RIOT.—Question, Mr. Herbert Roberts (Denbighshire, W.); Answer, The Under Secretary of State for India (Earl Percy, Kensington, S.) 1445

BRUSSELS SUGAR CONVENTION—IMPORTS FROM AUSTRIA, HUNGARY, AND FRANCE.—Questions, Mr. Gibson Bowles (Lynn Regis); Answers, The Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs (Lord Cranborne, Rochester) 1445

RUSSIAN SUGARS.—Question, Mr. Gibson Bowles; Answer, Lord Cranborne ... 1446

TRADE INTERESTS IN ROUMANIA.—Question, Mr. Hoult (Cheshire, Wirrall); Answer, Lord Cranborne 1446

NAVAL AND MILITARY EXPENDITURE.—Question, Mr. Mansfield (Lincolnshire, Spalding); Answer, The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr. Ritchie, Croydon) 1447

FISCAL INQUIRY—MOST-FAVOURED-NATION TREATMENT.—Question, Mr. Black; Answer, The President of the Board of Trade (Mr. Gerald Balfour, Leeds, Central)... 1447

COLONIAL TRADE WITH THE MOTHER COUNTRY AND FOREIGN COUNTRIES.—Questions, Mr. Mansfield and Mr. Labouchere; Answers, Mr. Gerald Balfour 1448

RURAL SCHOOLS—CURRICULUM.—Questions, Mr. Lambert and Mr. Humphreys-Owen (Montgomeryshire); Answers, The Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Education (Sir William Anson, Oxford University) 1448

WHITAKER WRIGHT PROSECUTION.—Question, Mr. Lambert; Answer, The Attorney-General (Sir Robert Finlay, Inverness Burghs) 1449

TERMINABLE LEASEHOLDS.—Question, Mr. Lundon (Limerick, E.); Answer, Sir Robert Finlay 1450

FRANCO-SPANISH ALLIANCE.—Question, Mr. Gibson Bowles; Answer, The Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury (Mr. A. J. Balfour, Manchester, E.) 1450

BRUSSELS SUGAR CONVENTION—BRITISH POLICY OF PROHIBITION.—Question, Mr. Gibson Bowles; Answer, Mr. A. J. Balfour 1450

TOWN COUNCILS (SCOTLAND) BILL.—Reported, with Amendments, from the Standing Committee on Law, etc. Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 268.] Minutes of Proceedings of the Standing Committee to be printed. [No. 268.] Bill, as amended (in the Standing Committee), to be considered to-morrow, and to be printed. [Bill 291.] 1451

July 22.] Page

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE (SUPPLY).—Ordered, That three additional days be allotted to the business of Supply.—(*Mr. A. J. Balfour.*) 1451

London Education Bill.—[THIRD READING.]—Order for Third Reading read.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now read the third time."

Dr. Macnamara (*Camberwell, N.*) 1452
Mr. Channing (*Northamptonshire, E.*) 1459

Amendment proposed—

"To leave out the word 'now,' and at the end of the Question to add the words 'upon this day three months.'"—(*Dr. Macnamara.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'now' stand part of the Question.

Mr. Crooks (*Woolwich*) 1464
Mr. Bryce (*Aberdeen, S.*) 1467
Mr. Lough (*Islington, W.*) 1473
Mr. Bull (*Hammersmith*) 1478
Mr. Lloyd-George (*Carnarvon Boroughs*) 1480
The Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Education (*Sir William Anson, Oxford University*) 1489
Mr. Sydney Buxton (*Tower Hamlets, Poplar*) 1496
Mr. Dillon (*Mayo, E.*) 1499
Mr. Barran (*Leeds*) 1502

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 228; Noes, 118. (Division List No. 181.)

Main Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read the third time and passed.

Licensing Acts (Scotland) Consolidation and Amendment Bill.—As amended (by the Standing Committee), further considered.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 37, line 35, to leave out from the word 'custody' to the word 'may' in line 36."—(*The Lord Advocate.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 38, line 3, after the word 'manner' to insert the words 'or while drunk uses obscene or indecent language to the annoyance of any person.'"—(*The Lord Advocate.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 38, line 14, at end, to insert the words 'If any person charged with an offence under this sub-section shall have been taken into custody and liberated on bail or pledge and shall fail to appear at the calling of the case at the first Court thereafter, the Court may (save as otherwise provided by or under any general or local Police Act applying to a burgh as aforesaid) declare such bail or pledge to be forfeited, and may in addition, if the case in the opinion of the Court shall so require, summon him to appear before the Court or grant warrant for his apprehension.'"—(*The Lord Advocate.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted in the Bill."

Question put, and agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

> "In page 38, lines 26 and 27, to leave out the words 'public conveyance or other,' and insert the words 'and any.'"—(*The Lord Advocate.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

> "In page 38, line 28, after the word 'otherwise' to insert the words 'and any public conveyance.'"—(*The Lord Advocate.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

> "In page 38, line 30, at end, to insert the words, (5) 'For the purposes of this section the expression 'public place' shall include the harbour of Glasgow, the expression 'public conveyance' shall include the ferry boats in the River Clyde as defined by the Clyde Navigation Acts, and the expression 'magistrate' shall include the bailie, depute bailie, and Judge exercising jurisdiction in the Court of the bailie of the River and Firth of Clyde.'"—(*The Lord Advocate.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

> "In page 39, line 3, after the word 'person' to insert the word 'is.'"—(*The Lord Advocate.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

> "In page 39, line 4, after the figures '1898' to insert the word 'and.'"—(*The Lord Advocate.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

> "In page 39, line 31, to leave out the words 'before the sheriff.'"—(*Mr. Caldwell.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

> "In page 40, line 27, at end, to add the words, 'The offence under this section of being found in any shebeen drunk shall be deemed to be an offence mentioned in the First Schedule to The Inebriates Act, 1898.'"—(*The Lord Advocate.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

> "In page 40, line 40, at end of clause to insert the words 'unless he proves to the satisfaction of the Court that such liquor was so consumed without his knowledge or against his consent.'"—*The Lord Advocate.*)

Amendment agreed to.

July 22.] *Page*

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 42, lines 18 and 19, to leave out the words 'if duly authorised by the police authority.'"—(*Mr. Caldwell.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 43, line 11, at end, to add the words, (7) 'A club may make application for a certificate of registration at any time after the thirtieth day of November nineteen hundred and three and before the commencement of this Act, and no club which has made such application shall be deemed to be an unregistered club pending the final decision of the sheriff on such application, and any application so made shall for the purposes of this section be deemed to have been made on the first day of January nineteen hundred and four.'"—(*The Lord Advocate.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 43, line 16, to leave out the words 'annually by the general body of members,' and insert the words 'for not less than a year by the general body of members and subject in whole or in a specified proportion to annual re-election.'"—(*The Lord Advocate.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 43, line 35, to leave out from the word 'be' to the word 'which' in line 38, and insert the words 'supplied with exciseable liquor in the club premises unless on the invitation and in the company of a member, and that the member shall, upon the admission of such visitor to the club premises or immediately upon his being supplied with such liquor, enter his own name and the name and address of the visitor in a book.'"—(*The Lord Advocate.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Bill."

Mr. Caldwell 1510

Question put, and negatived.

Question, "That those words be there inserted," put, and agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 46, line 10, after the word 'consumption' to insert the words 'or to a person holding an excise licence for the sale of such liquor.'"—(*The Lord Advocate.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 48, line 19, to leave out from beginning of line to the word 'served,' in line 31, and insert the words 'a complaint for breach of certificate shall be.'"—(*The Lord Advocate.*)

Amendment agreed to.

July 22.] Page

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 48, line 32, to leave out the words, 'to attend the hearing of such complaint.'"—(*The Lord Advocate.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 48, line 33, to leave out the words, 'said party,' and insert the words 'party complained against.'"—(*The Lord Advocate.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 49, line 6, to leave out from the word 'against' to end of clause."—(*The Lord Advocate.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 49, leave out Clause 92."—(*The Lord Advocate.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 50, line 5, after the word 'of,' insert the words 'other prosecutor ordinarily acting in such respective Courts or in the case of a justice of the peace or burgh police court at the instance.'"—(*The Lord Advocate.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 50, line 7, to leave out the word 'magistrates,' and insert the words 'town council.'"—(*The Lord Advocate.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 50, line 10, to leave out the words 'magistrates, as the case may be, shall,' and insert the words 'town council, as the case may be, may.'"—(*The Lord Advocate.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 50, line 16, to leave out from the word 'taxed' to the word 'as,' in line 17, and insert the words 'on behalf of the County Council or Town Council.'"—(*The Lord Advocate.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 50, line 19, to leave out the words 'also the execution of this Act,' and insert the words 'such business.'"—(*The Lord Advocate.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 50, line 22, to leave out the word 'burgh' and insert the words 'Royal or Parliamentary burghs having a separate licensing Court.'"—(*The Lord Advocate.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 51, line 5, to leave out the word 'may' and insert the word 'shall.'—(*The Lord Advocate.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 51, line 7, to leave out from the word 'determined' to the word 'and' in line 8, and insert the words 'under the provisions of the Summary Jurisdiction Acts.'"—(*The Lord Advocate.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 51, line 16, at end, to insert the words 'Provided that, in any complaint brought under this Act, the description of any offence against this Act in the words of the Act, or of any certificate granted thereunder shall be sufficient in law.'"—(*The Lord Advocate.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 51, leave out Clause 95."—(*The Lord Advocate.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 51, line 37, to leave out the words 'toll house.'"—(*The Lord Advocate.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 52, line 7, to leave out the words 'toll houses.'"—(*The Lord Advocate.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 52, line 19, to leave out the words 'sixty days,' and insert the words 'two months.'"—(*The Lord Advocate.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 52, line 33, to leave out the words 'sixty days,' and insert the words 'two months.'"—(*The Lord Advocate.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 53, line 23, to leave out the words 'sixty days,' and insert the words 'two months.'"—(*The Lord Advocate.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 54, line 6, at beginning, to insert the words, 'A certified extract of.'"—(*The Lord Advocate.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 55, line 17, to leave out from the word 'for' to the word 'in,' in line 21, and insert the words 'any offence punishable by fine or by imprisonment to bring the case by appeal before the High Court of Justiciary.'"—(*The Lord Advocate.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 55, line 38, to leave out from the word 'clerk' to the word 'a' in line 39, and insert the words 'of the High Court of Justiciary.'"—(*The Lord Advocate.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 56, line 9, at end of line to insert the words 'or with the right of appeal under the Summary Prosecutions Appeals (Scotland) Act, 1875, or the Burgh Police (Scotland) Act, 1892.'"—(*The Lord Advocate.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 56, line 27, at end, to add the words 'And nothing in this Act contained shall be read as limiting any power to mitigate penalties contained in the Summary Jurisdiction Acts or any other Act, or as excluding the operation of the Fine or Imprisonment (Scotland and Ireland) Act, 1899.'"—(*The Lord Advocate.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Mr. Gretton (Derbyshire, S.) 1514

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 64, line 12, at the end, to insert the words 'Part I. Forms of certificate applicable to all counties and districts and to all burghs not specified in Part II.'"—(*Mr. Gretton.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted in the Bill."

The Lord Advocate (Mr. A. Graham Murray, Buteshire) 1514
Sir Lewis McIver (Edinburgh, W.) 1516
Sir Andrew Agnew (Edinburgh, S.) 1517
Mr. Caldwell 1518
Sir Charles Renshaw (Renfrewshire, W.) 1518

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Mr. Eugene Wason (Clackmannan and Kinross) 1518

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 65, line 5, after the word, 'premises,' to insert the words 'and do not himself be, or permit any of his servants to be, in a state of intoxication on the premises.'"—(*Mr. Eugene Wason.*)

Mr. A. Graham Murray 1519

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Mr. Black (Banffshire) 1519

July 22.] *Page*

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 65, line 8, to leave out the word 'fourteen,' and insert the word 'sixteen.'"—(*Mr. Black.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'fourteen' stand part of the Bill.'"

Mr. A. Graham Murray 1520

Sir Robert Reid 1520

Question put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 200; Noes, 93. (Division List No. 182.)

Mr. A. Graham Murray 1523

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 65, line 12, leave out the words 'such hour' and insert the words 'eight of the clock.'"—(*The Lord Advocate.*)

Question proposed, "That the words 'such hour' stand part of the Bill."

Col. Denny (*Kilmarnock Burghs*) 1523
Sir Robert Reid 1524
Sir J. Stirling-Maxwell (*Glasgow, College*) 1524
Sir J. Fergusson 1524
Mr. Parker Smith (*Lanarkshire, Partick*)... 1525
Sir Andrew Agnew 1525
Mr. Dalziel (*Kirkcaldy Burghs*) 1526

Question put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 107; Noes, 168. (Division List No. 183.)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted in the Bill."

And, it being half-past seven of the clock, further consideration of the Bill, as amended (in the Standing Committee), stood adjourned till this Evening's Sitting.

EVENING SITTING.

Licensing Acts (Scotland) Consolidation and Amendment Bill.—As amended (by the Standing Committee), further considered.

Proceedings resumed on Amendment proposed to the Bill.

"In page 65, line 12, in lieu of words omitted [22nd July], to insert the words 'eight of the clock.'"—(*The Lord Advocate.*)

Question again proposed, "That those words be there inserted in the Bill."

Amendment proposed to the proposed Amendment to the Bill—

"To leave out the word 'eight' and insert the word 'nine.'"—(*Sir J. Stirling-Maxwell.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'eight' stand part of the proposed Amendment to the Bill."

July 22.]

Page
Mr. Gretton (*Derbyshire, S.*) 1529
Sir Robert Reid 1530
Mr. A. Graham Murray 1530
Mr. Buchanan, (*Perthshire, E.*) 1532
Mr. Shaw Stewart (*Renfrewshire, E.*) 1532
Mr. Dalziel 1533
Sir Herbert Maxwell (*Wigtonshire*) 1534
Mr. Markham (*Nottinghamshire, Mansfield*) 1536
Mr. Caldwell 1536
Sir Andrew Agnew 1537
Mr. Hunter Craig 1538

Question put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 108 ; Noes, 86. (Division List No. 184.)

Proposed words inserted in the Bill.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 65, lines 12 and 13, to leave out the words 'not earlier than eight and not later than ten of the clock as the licensing Court may direct.'"—(*The Lord Advocate.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 66, line 18, to leave out the words 'such hour,' and insert 'eight of the clock.'"—(*The Lord Advocate.*)

Question put, "That the words 'such hour' stand part of the Bill."

The House divided :—Ayes, 71 ; Noes, 132. (Division List No. 185.)

Question proposed, "That the words 'eight of the clock' be there inserted in the Bill."

Mr. Caldwell 1542
Colonel Denny 1543

The House divided :—Ayes, 41 ; Noes, 72. (Division List No. 186.)

Question put.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 66, lines 19 and 20, to leave out the words 'not earlier than eight and not later than ten of the clock as the licensing Court may direct.'"—(*The Lord Advocate.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill.

"In page 67, line 22, to leave out the words 'such hour,' and insert 'eight of the clock.'"—(*The Lord Advocate.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 67, lines 22 and 23, to leave out the words 'not earlier than eight and not later than ten of the clock as the licensing Court may direct.'"—(*The Lord Advocate.*)

Amendment agreed to.

July 22.] *Page*

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 70, to leave out Schedule 11."—(*The Lord Advocate.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 71, column 1, line 15, to leave out the words '43 and 44 Vict., c. 20,' and insert the words '63 and 64 Vict., c. 28.'"—(*The Lord Advocate.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 72, column 3, line 11, at end, to insert the words 'Section two hundred and thirty-seven,' the words 'be intoxicated while on duty, or if,' and the word 'he' where first occurring.'"—(*The Lord Advocate.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Mr. A. Graham Murray 1546

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the Bill be read a third time."

Mr. Black 1546
Mr. Hunter Craig 1547
Mr. Caldwell 1548
Mr. Cameron Corbett (*Glasgow, Tradeston*)... 1548

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read the third time, and passed.

Employment of Children Bill.—As amended (by the Standing Committee), further considered.

Mr. Jesse Collings (*Birmingham, Bordesley*) 1549

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 5, line 11, to leave out from the word 'means' to the end of line 17, and insert the words 'the council of any municipal borough, or urban district, or rural district.'"—(*Mr. Jesse Collings.*)

Question proposed, "That the words 'in case of' stand part of the Bill."

The Under Secretary to the Home Office (*Mr. Cochrane, Ayrshire, N.*)... 1554
Sir Edward Strachey (*Somersetshire, S.*)... 1555
Mr. Broadhurst (*Leicester*) 1556

Question put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 190 ; Noes, 36. (Division List No. 187.)

Mr. Alban Gibbs (*London*)... 1559

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 5, line 11, at end, to insert the words 'the City of London, the Mayor, Aldermen, and Commons of that City in Common Council assembled, in the case of.'"—(*Mr. Alban Gibbs.*)

Amendment agreed to.

And, it being Midnight, further consideration of the Bill, as amended (in the Standing Committee), stood adjourned.

Bill, as amended (in the Standing Committee), to be further considered upon Friday.

PATENT OFFICE EXTENSION (EXPENSES).

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

Resolved, That it is expedient to authorise the payment, out of moneys to be provided by Parliament, of all Expenses incurred by the Commissioners of Works under any Act of the present session for the acquisition of land for the further Extension of the Patent Office, and for purposes connected therewith.—(*Mr. Elliot.*)

Resolution to be reported this day 1559

MILITARY WORKS (CONSOLIDATED FUND.)—Resolution reported, "That it is expedient to make further provisions for defraying the expenses of certain Military Works and other Military Services, and to authorise the issue out of the Consolidated Fund of such sums, not exceeding £5,000,000, as may be required for those purposes, and to make provision for raising, in the manner provided by Section 2 of The Military Works Act, 1897, the sums so issued by terminable annuities for a period not exceeding thirty years from the date of borrowing."

Resolution agreed to.

Bill ordered to be brought in by Mr. Secretary Brodrick, Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer, and Lord Stanley 1560

Military Works Bill.—"To make further provision for defraying the Expenses of certain Military Works and other Military Services," presented accordingly and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Friday, and to be printed. [Bill 292.] 1560

Trade Marks (Cotton Wares) Bill.—Order for Second Reading read, and discharged:—Bill withdrawn 1560

Adjourned at ten minutes after Twelve o'clock.

END OF TABLE OF CONTENTS TO VOLUME CXXV.

THE

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(*AUTHORISED EDITION*)

IN THE

FOURTH SESSION OF THE *TWENTY-SEVENTH PARLIAMENT* OF THE
UNITED KINGDOM OF *GREAT BRITAIN* AND *IRELAND*, IN THE
THIRD YEAR OF THE REIGN OF

HIS MAJESTY KING EDWARD VII.

EIGHTH VOLUME OF SESSION.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Wednesday 8th July, 1903.

The House met at Two of the Clock.

UNOPPOSED PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Charing Cross, Euston, and Hampstead Railway Bill. Lords' Amendments considered, and agreed to.

Port Talbot Railway and Docks Bill [Lords] [not amended], considered; to be read the third time.

Birmingham District Tramways Bill [Lords]; Bradford Corporation Bill [Lords]; Kip's Patent Bill [Lords]. Read a second time, and committed.

Jewish Colonisation Association Bill [Lords] (by Order). Read the third time, and passed, without Amendment.

Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 7) Bill. Lords' Amendment considered, and agreed to.

North-Western Electricity and Power-Gas Bill [Lords]. Report (7th July) from the Select Committee on Standing Orders read.

Bill to be read a second time.

Mersey Docks and Harbour Board Bill [Lords]. Reported, with Amendments; Report to lie upon the Table.

PETITIONS.

DETENTION OF POOR PERSONS (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Petition from South Knapdale, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

ELECTRIC LIGHTING (LONDON) BILL.

Petition from Bermondsey, against; to lie upon the Table.

LICENCES RENEWAL AND TRANSFER BILL.

Petition from Barnard Castle, against; to lie upon the Table.

LICENSING LAW (COMPENSATION FOR NON-RENEWAL) BILL.

Petition from Barnard Castle, against; to lie upon the Table.

LICENSING (SCOTLAND) ACTS AMENDMENT BILL.

Petitions in favour: from Deer; Edinburgh; and Galashiels; to lie upon the Table.

PUBLIC LIBRARIES.

Petition from Bury, for alteration of law; to lie upon the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

CUSTOMS TARIFF (AUSTRIA-HUNGARY).

Copy presented of translation of the proposed New General Customs Tariff for Austria-Hungary, with comparison, as far as possible, of the Rates of Customs Duty contained in the proposed Tariff with the rates at present in force on Imports into Austria-Hungary from the United Kingdom [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

GAS ORDERS CONFIRMATION (No. 1) BILL [LORDS].

Return presented relative thereto [ordered 7th July; *Mr. Bonar Law*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 244.]

GAS ORDERS CONFIRMATION (No. 2) BILL [LORDS].

Return presented relative thereto [ordered 7th July; *Mr. Bonar Law*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No 245.]

GAS AND WATER ORDERS CONFIRMATION BILL [LORDS].

Return presented relative thereto [ordered 7th July; *Mr. Bonar Law*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 246.]

WATER ORDERS CONFIRMATION BILL [LORDS].

Return presented relative thereto [ordered 7th July; *Mr. Bonar Law*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 247.]

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

Vaccination Exemption Certificates at Stratford.

MR. WEIR (Ross and Cromarty): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will state how many applications have been made at the Police Court, Stratford, E., during the last twelve months for certificates of exemption from vaccination, and the number of cases in which certificates have been granted.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Akers-Douglas.*) I am informed that no record is kept at the Court referred to of the number of applications. The number of certificates granted during the year ended 30th June, 1903, was 159.

American Customs Law—Effects on Export Trade.

SIR HOWARD VINCENT (Sheffield, Central): To ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs if the McKinley Tariff Law is still in force in the United States, and if under it preferential or reciprocity agreements exist with any other, and, if so, with what Governments; and if these preferential or reciprocity treaties deprive the United States Government of most-favoured-nation treatment in other countries; and, further, if he has any reports showing their effect upon the export trade of America with the United Kingdom or other foreign nations.

(*Answered by Lord Cranborne.*) The answer to the first Question is in the negative. The present Customs Law is that of 24th July, 1897, and is known as the Dingley Tariff. Under this law reciprocity agreements have been concluded with France, Germany, Portugal, and Italy. The answer to the fourth Question is, so far as I am aware, in the negative. We have no reports on the point mentioned in the last Question.

Grants to Students in University Hostels.

MR. ERNEST GRAY (West Ham, N.): To ask the Secretary to the Board of Education whether he is yet in a position to state what steps the Board propose to take to give effect to the declaration of the First Lord of the Treasury made on 7th July, 1902, namely, that the Government were of opinion that a student in a University hostel should have the same contribution paid to him on behalf of the Exchequer as a student in a residential training college.

(*Answered by Sir William Anson.*) The steps taken by the Board in the matter in question are set forth in the regulations of the Board issued on Monday last.

SIR JOHN GORST (Cambridge University): To ask the Secretary to the Board of Education whether the increased grants which the Board of Education has undertaken to pay to those students of day training colleges who are inmates of hostels will be payable to such students of the Cambridge Day Training College as are members of the colleges of the University.

(*Answered by Sir William Anson.*) The increased grants mentioned will be paid to such students of the Cambridge Day Training College as are members of a college of the University.

County Councils and Voluntary Schools.

MR. GRIFFITH BOSCAWEN (Kent, Tunbridge): To ask the Secretary to the Board of Education whether his attention has been called to the resolutions of certain County Councils whereby it is proposed to contribute nothing but the Government Grants to the maintenance of the voluntary schools within their area, and to apply the produce of the county rate levied for educational purposes over the entire county towards the support of county schools only; and what steps he proposes to take.

(*Answered by Sir William Anson.*) My attention has been called to the resolutions mentioned. It is the duty of every County Council to maintain and keep efficient all public elementary schools within its area. The rate and the Government Grant together constitute the fund at the disposal of a County Council for this purpose. The standard of efficiency at which all public elementary schools are maintained must be alike, unless special educational reasons can be shown for a distinction. The action proposed in the resolutions would therefore be in contravention of the Act.

Imperfect Vaccination at Liverpool.

MR. WEIR: To ask the President of the Local Government Board whether his attention has been called to the fact that three out of the five vaccinated children under five years of age who have been attacked by smallpox during the present epidemic in Liverpool, and whom the Liverpool medical officer of health alleged at a meeting of the Liverpool Health Committee on the 21st May last had been imperfectly vaccinated, were vaccinated by two of the public vaccinators appointed by the Liverpool Select Vestry; whether the local authority is entitled to recover these fees from the public vaccinators; and whether he will issue a definition of perfect vaccination with a view to a better understanding on this point between the medical officer of health and the Liverpool public vaccinators.

(*Answered by Mr. Walter Long.*) My attention has been drawn by the Local Anti-Vaccination League to the three cases referred to in the Question, and I have communicated with the clerk to the Select Vestry of the parish of Liverpool on the subject. As to one of the cases, the clerk informs me that there is no record of it in the vaccination registers or in the workhouse books of the parish. The other two cases appear to have been vaccinated by public vaccinators of the parish, and, according to the vaccination registers, successful vesicles were produced by the operations. In one of the two cases the child is in the hospital. In the other case the parents have removed and their address is at present unknown; but I understand that in both cases further inquiries will, if possible, be made at the instance of the Vestry. Upon the information before me I am not prepared to say that the public vaccinators were not entitled to fees in these cases. The instructions issued by the Local Government Board to public vaccinators direct that in all ordinary cases of primary vaccination the public vaccinator should aim at producing four separate good sized vesicles or groups of vesicles, not less than half an inch from one another. The instructions state further that the total area of vesiculation resulting from the vaccination should not be less than half a square inch. It does not appear to me that I can do anything further with the view of meeting the point referred to in the last part of the Question.

Public Health Acts Amendment Bill—Date of Introduction.

SIR ALFRED HICKMAN (Wolverhampton, W.): To ask the President of the Local Government Board whether, having regard to the general desire expressed by local authorities throughout the Kingdom, he will state when he will introduce the Public Health Acts Amendment Bill.

(*Answered by Mr. Walter Long.*) Looking to the period of the session, and to the other legislation proposed by the Government, I fear it will not be practicable to proceed with the measure referred to this year.

Statistical Abstracts—Date of Publication.

Sir HENRY FOWLER (Wolverhampton, E.): To ask the President of the Board of Trade when the Statistical Abstracts for the United Kingdom, the Colonies, and Foreign Countries will be circulated.

(*Answered by Mr. Bonar Law.*) The Statistical Abstracts for the United Kingdom and the Colonies are usually issued about October and December respectively. Every effort will be made to publish these Abstracts as early as possible, but they cannot be issued until the requisite data are available. The Statistical Abstract for Foreign Countries will probably be issued in September or October.

Exports to Foreign Countries of Woollen and Cotton Goods and Cutlery in 1872 and 1902.

Mr. SYDNEY BUXTON (Tower Hamlets, Poplar): To ask the President of the Board of Trade what was the total amount and total value of our exports to foreign countries of woollen goods, of cotton goods, and of cutlery respectively in 1872; and what were the corresponding figures for 1902 (or for 1901 if 1902 are not available).

(*Answered by Mr. Bonar Law.*) The values of our exports of the groups of articles referred to to foreign countries in 1872 and 1902 were recorded in the Trade Accounts as follows: Cotton manufactures of all kinds, except yarns —1872, £43,054,000; 1902, £36,867,000; woollen and worsted manufactures of all kinds, except yarns—1872, £28,474,000; 1902, £9,195,000; hardware and cutlery — 1872, £3,728,760; 1902, £954,000. The figures for 1872 include the values of the exports to certain colonies in cases where these were not of sufficient importance to be separately stated in the Trade Accounts. The exports of cutlery in 1872 cannot be distinguished from hardware. It is not possible to state the aggregate quantities, some classes of articles being entered by value only.

Imports of Parchment Coffee-Husk.

Mr. GARDNER (Berkshire, Wokingham): To ask the President of the Board of Trade if he can state the quantity of parchment coffee-husk imported into the United Kingdom in 1902, the country or countries from which imported, and the use to which the material is put.

(*Answered by Mr. Bonar Law.*) The value of the parchment coffee-husk imported into the United Kingdom in 1902 was £1,870, exclusively from Germany. I understand that this material is used for packing purposes.

Reduction in American Railway Freight on Wheat during 1902.

Mr. HUGH SMITH (Northumberland, Tyneside): To ask the Secretary to the Board of Trade if he can say what reduction, if any, was made in the American railway freight on wheat last year; and, if so, by what companies it was made and between which places.

(*Answered by Mr. Bonar Law.*) The all-rail export rates for wheat per 100 lbs. from Chicago and Milwaukee during 1902 varied as follows—

	To Boston.	To New York.	To Philadelphia and Montreal.	To Baltimore.
	d.	*d.*	*d.*	*d.*
January 1.	8	8	7½	7¼
June 9.	6¾	6¾	6¼	6
December 8.	8	8	7½	7¼

Further information as to the combined lake and rail freights between various places shall be put at the hon. Member's disposal if he will call at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade.

Government Stamp on Prepared Medicines.

SIR JOHN LENG (Dundee): To ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether, under a notification recently issued by the Board of Inland Revenue, a druggist will not be allowed to sell the smallest quantities of pills, powders, mixtures, or other form of medicine without attaching to every descriptive label, either written or printed, a 1½d. stamp; whether the Board has considered the extra cost to the poor of this additional charge, or the danger of selling drugs unlabelled; and whether, in view of the interests of the poorer classes and of the public safety, the Board will, still in accordance with their former intimation, recognise the necessity for giving to a preparation such a designation or name as shall distinguish it from other medicines and attribute some further meaning to such words as cough mixture, liver pills, lip salve, teething powders, corn paint etc.

(*Answered by Mr. Elliot.*) The change in the Board's practice has been rendered necessary by the decision of the High Court in the recent case of Ransom *v.* Sanguinetti, the effect of which is to render liable to the Medicine Stamp Duty any preparation sold under a description which refers only to the ailment which it is intended to remedy—*e.g.*, cough mixture. But payment of duty will not be required in respect of a preparation which bears upon the label an indication of its ingredients, such as will bring the article within the scope of the special exemption in favour of known, admitted, and approved remedies, sold by duly qualified persons, as interpreted by the recent decision in the case of Farmer *v.* Glyn Jones.

MR. SHAW-STEWART (Renfrewshire, E.): To ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer if the Board of Inland Revenue have notified chemists that after 30th September they will be no longer permitted to sell to customers small packages bearing a descriptive title unless a medicine stamp of the value of 1½d. is affixed to each package even though the value of such package, be only 1d. or 2d.; and whether, seeing that the alternative will be for chemists to sell all packages without any descriptive title, he will state what steps he proposes to take to prevent, in the one event, so high a tax being placed on chemists and their customers; and, in the other, to guard the public against danger.

(*Answered by Mr. Elliot.*) I would refer the hon. Member to the answer to Question 49, of to-day's date, on the same subject.

Preservation of Ruins of Ardagh Cathedral.

MR. J. P. FARRELL (Longford, N.): To ask the Secretary to the Treasury to state what steps he intends to take to preserve the ruins of the ancient cathedral at Ardagh, which the local vestry have refused to do anything to preserve, although the Board of Works, the County Council, and the Church representative body have all agreed that these ancient ruins should be preserved.

(*Answered by Mr. Elliot.*) The ruins are not vested in the Board of Works, but in the representative Church body, and as the local vestry object to their transfer, neither the Treasury nor the Board of Works are in a position to take steps for the preservation of the ruins.

Estates for Sale in County Longford.

MR. J. P. FARRELL: To ask Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland to state the number of estates for sale under the Ashbourne and other purchase Acts at present pending for sale to the tenants of County Longford.

(*Answered by Mr. Atkinson.*) There are no applications for purchase pending in the County Longford under the Acts of 1885 and 1888. Under the Acts 1891–1896 there are seventy-two applications still pending in the county, which embrace holdings on ten estates. These are in various stages towards completion.

Gordon-Bennett Cup Race—Delay in Telegraph Messages.

MR. JAMES O'CONNOR (Wicklow, W.): To ask the Postmaster-General whether he can state the reasons for the delay on telegraph messages from Dublin in connection with the motor race on 2nd July; whether he can also state the amount of money received for Press telegrams on this occasion, and the cost of the special arrangements in connection with the race.

(*Answered by Mr. Austen Chamberlain.*) I much regret to find that in spite of the special arrangements that were made serious delay occurred in the transmission of telegrams between Dublin and London on the occasion of the automobile race on 2nd July. I am investigating the cause. Particulars of the receipts and expenditure on the occasion are not at present available.

Loan Fund Legislation in Ireland.

MR. DILLON (Mayo, E.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been directed to the paragraph in the last Report of the Loan Fund Board of Ireland in which the Board asserts its opinion that Loan Fund legislation upon broad lines is still necessary, as it was in the year 1855, when a Select Committee of the House of Commons reported in favour of legislation having a tendency to secure more regular and business-like attention to their duties on the part of the treasurers and trustees of each society; and whether, seeing that recommendations similar to the above have been repeatedly made by the Loan Fund Board since the year 1855, he will explain why the Government have not made any attempt to legislate in accordance with the recommendations of the Board.

(*Answered by Mr. Wyndham.*) It is not for me to explain the inaction of previous Governments over a period extending so far back as 1855. But I may be permitted to point out that the present Government a few years ago introduced and passed a Bill, the object of which was to meet the most pressing of the difficulties of the Loan Fund system. That legislation secured satisfactory results. It was stated by the Attorney-General for Ireland on the 15th,* and again on the 22nd June,† that the Government had drafted a further amending Bill granting facilities for the recovery of outstanding debts, and that the Bill would be introduced if Government received an assurance from hon. Members that it should be treated as a non-contentious measure. No such assurance has yet been received.

Proceedings under Criminal Law and Procedure Act at Borrisoleigh, Co. Tipperary.

MR. P. J. O'BRIEN (Tipperary, N.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland if he can state the circumstances under which three persons named Stapleton, Delany, and Carroll, were arrested at Borrisoleigh, in the County Tipperary, what is the charge against them, and at what hour of the night the arrests were effected, and by whom; and whether, seeing that the Crown have since obtained an order from the King's Bench Division changing the venue in the trial of these men to the County of the City of Cork, and that this order was obtained under the provisions of the 4th section of the Criminal Law and Procedure (Ireland) Act, 1887, and that the Crown afterwards obtained an order that the trial should take place before a special jury, he will state whether any notice of these motions was given to the accused, and when this part of the county was proclaimed under the 5th section of the Criminal Law and Procedure (Ireland) Act to enable this course to be adopted, and if he can state what Judge of the High Court will try the accused at the forthcoming commission in Cork.

(*Answered by Mr. Wyndham.*) The case is pending for trial. I cannot therefore enter into the question of the circumstances which led to the arrests, as these may be contested on the hearing. The arrests were made at four o'clock on the morning of the 17th April last. The orders for a special jury and change of venue were obtained in strict compliance with the provisions of the statute. No notice was given of the applications for the order, as none is required to be given; but copies of the orders were served on the prisoners on the 30th May. The 3rd and 4th sections of the statute were put in force in this part of the County Tipperary by proclamation dated the 16th April, 1902. The Judges who will preside at the ensuing Cork Assizes are the Lord Chief Justice and Mr. Justice Barton, either of whom may try the case.

---

* See (4) *Debates*, cxxiii., 953.

† See (4) *Debates*, cxxiv., 52.

Army Pensions—Case of James Griffin, late of Royal Garrison Regiment.

MR. JOYCE (Limerick): To ask the Financial Secretary to the War Office whether his attention has been directed to the case of James Griffin, Private 4th Battalion Royal Garrison Regiment, Reg. No. 4,172, discharged on the 12th May, 1903, as medically unfit for further service, his character on discharge being good; and whether, seeing that this man served fourteen years in the regular Army and nine in the militia, and in view of his health and circumstances, some pension will be given him.

(*Answered by Lord Stanley.*) This man served with the Colours for less than nine years, and was discharged for dementia, medically certified as not the result of service or climate, and as having been aggravated by intemperance and misconduct. It was also stated that if he did not have a relapse he would shortly be able to earn a full livelihood. His case has been fully considered, but it is not one in which a pension could be granted.

Imports of Canadian Cattle into the United States and United Kingdom.

MR. HALDANE (Haddingtonshire): To ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he can state the number and value of Canadian cattle imported into the United States from Canada, and the rate of duty charged by the United States thereon; whether the Canadian Government has addressed to the Home Government any remonstrances of recent date on the obstacles placed on the importation of Canadian cattle into this country; and, if so, what reply has been made to such remonstrances.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Chamberlain.*) During the year ended 30th June, 1902, Canada exported to the United States cattle one year old or less to the number of 10,124, and the value of 124,497 dollars, and cattle over one year old to the number of 21,619, and the value of 663,367 dollars. The United States duty on cattle less than a year old is 2 dollars per head, and on all other cattle, if valued at not more than 14 dollars per head, 3·75 dollars per head; if valued at more than 14 dollars per head, 27½ per cent. *ad valorem*. The Canadian Ministers made personal representations to the late President of the Board of Agriculture last year on the subject of the restrictions imposed on the importation of Canadian cattle, but I understand that no hope was held out to them that His Majesty's Government would propose any modification of the Diseases of Animals Act, 1896, which prohibits the importation of live cattle except for slaughter at the port of landing.

QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE.

The New Naval Base.

MR. PIRIE (Aberdeen, N): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether, in view of the importance of securing a commercial and strategic waterway connecting the West of Scotland with the new naval base on the Firth of Forth, any steps have now been taken to examine the possibility of enlarging the existing Forth and Clyde Canal on the lines of the recently executed Kiel Canal; and, if not, if the question could be examined and a report made as to the cost and time required for the execution of such a work.

THE CIVIL LORD OF THE ADMIRALTY (Mr. PRETYMAN, Suffolk, Woodbridge): No steps have been taken of the nature referred to in the Question, and there is no intention of expending naval funds in the manner suggested.

Navy Summer Cruises.

MR. WEIR (Ross and Cromarty): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether he is now in a position to say whether a training vessel will visit Lochbroom, Ross-shire, this summer.

MR. PRETYMAN: I am not yet able to give a definite reply to the hon. Member, as the programmes for the coming cruises will not be drawn up until the middle of next month, but the undertaking given by my hon. friend that the question of a visit to Lochbroom shall receive consideration will not be lost sight of.

Boer Prisoners in Ceylon.

Mr. SWIFT MACNEILL (Donegal, S.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether there are any, and, if so, how many, Boer prisoners of war in Ceylon; and what is the intention of the Government with reference to the return of these men to their homes in South Africa.

The SECRETARY of STATE for the COLONIES (Mr. J. Chamberlain, Birmingham, W.): I understand that there are at present six prisoners of war in Ceylon. They will not be allowed to return to the Transvaal or Orange River Colony unless they take the oath or make the declaration of allegiance to His Majesty.

Mr. SWIFT MACNEILL: Are these men actually detained in prison, or are they allowed personal liberty in Ceylon?

Mr. J. CHAMBERLAIN: I should say a qualified liberty.

Land Settlement in the Transvaal.

Mr. SWIFT MACNEILL: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether his attention has been directed to a land settlement scheme in the Transvaal initiated or proposed by the Government or a Mr. W. Carlis, whereby Mr. Carlis is to obtain half profits of the labour of certain white settlers now in a helpless condition for want of funds, who are to be handed over to him on terms of forced labourers; and whether, having regard to the fact that the Government of the Transvaal is pledged to a philanthropic treatment of these indigent whites, why is an undertaking of land settlement not carried out departmentally instead of being entrusted to a commercial gentleman for the purposes of profit. And what arrangements, if any, have been made by the Transvaal Government for the supervision of the treatment of the indigent settlers placed under the control of Mr. Carlis.

Mr. J. CHAMBERLAIN: I have no knowledge of the scheme to which the hon. Member refers. Full information with regard to the schemes of Burgher settlement which appear to be referred to will be found at pages 65 and following of Cd. 1551 and pages 14 and following of Cd. 1553.

Mr. SWIFT MACNEILL: That answer does not give me much information.

Mr. J. CHAMBERLAIN: But the Papers will.

Metropolitan District Railway—Electric Traction.

Mr. WEIR: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade if he will state what progress has been made with the establishment of a system of electric traction on the Metropolitan District Railway.

The PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY to the BOARD of TRADE (Mr. Bonar Law, Glasgow, Blackfriars): The Metropolitan District Railway Company inform me that the railway between Mill Hill Park and South Harrow—a distance of about six miles—has been regularly worked by electric traction since Sunday, June 26th. The Company add that the working of the main line by electric traction depends upon the date of the completion of the Power House at Lots Road, Chelsea, which is being pressed forward with the greatest possible speed.

Cotton Trust.

Mr. FIELD (Dublin, St. Patrick): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether he has made further inquiry regarding the closing of mills in manufacturing districts, owing to the operations of the cotton trust; if so, whether he can state how many hands are partially disemployed and the wages value of such disemployment; and whether he will make inquiry as to the precautions taken in other countries to prevent gambling in produce.

Mr. BONAR LAW: I have no information to give to the hon. Member beyond that contained in my answer to his Question on the 1st instant.† As I have previously informed him the reports which have been received from abroad bearing upon this matter will be laid upon the Table shortly.

---

† See (4) *Debates*, cxxiv., 1026.

Destruction of Fish at Billingsgate and Aberdeen.

MR. PIRIE: I beg, there being no Minister directly in charge of the fishing interest in this House, to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether his attention has been drawn to the fact that about 50 tons of good and wholesome fish were destroyed at Billingsgate during the first three days of last week, and that on one day recently 30 tons were similarly lost for human food at a Scottish port; and, if so, whether he is prepared to take any steps in the matter; and can he also state the total quantities of fish so destroyed during 1902 in England and Scotland, respectively, specifying out of the total the amount condemned as unfit for food.

MR. BONAR LAW: I am informed that owing to the sudden heat a large amount of fish had to be destroyed at Billingsgate on the 27th June, and that owing to the impossibility of disposing of it in any other way about 40 tons had to be sold for manure at Aberdeen on the same day. The Board of Trade have no power to prevent such destruction, and I have no information as to the total amount of fish destroyed in England and Scotland.

MR. PIRIE: May I ask whether the hon. Gentleman cannot provide greater facilities for distribution to the markets in order to prevent similar waste.

MR. BONAR LAW: The waste at Billingsgate was due to the fish not being wholesome; that at Aberdeen to fish arriving on Saturday night in such large quantities that it could not be sold.

British Imports and Exports for last Seventy Years.

MR. HOULT (Cheshire, Wirrall): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether he will furnish a Return showing the yearly total value of imports and exports during the last seventy years; and whether he can give coals separately in tonnage and value.

MR. BONAR LAW: So far as the figures are available the hon. Member will find the particulars he requires for the years from 1830 to 1840 inclusive in Parts VIII. and X. of the "Tables of the Revenue, Population, Commerce, etc., of the United Kingdom," and for subsequent years in the "Reprint of the Statistical Abstract for the United Kingdom" for 1840 to 1854, issued in 1870, and in the 17th, 19th, 34th and 49th issues of the same publication. The values of imports before 1854 cannot be compared with those after that date owing to a change in the mode of valuation.

Trade Statistics.

MR. WHITE RIDLEY (Stalybridge): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade if he will grant the Returns appearing on to-day's Notice Paper regarding cotton, woollen, and iron goods.

MR. BONAR LAW: The information which the hon. Member desires will involve great labour on the part of the Department, and I must ask him to be good enough to give sufficient notice to enable the matter to be properly considered in connection with other requests for information of a kindred nature. If the hon. Member will communicate with me in a week's time, I shall then be able to give him a definite reply.

Appended are the notices referred to in the Question:—1. Mr. Matthew Ridley—Cotton—Return showing for each year from 1890 to 1902, inclusive; (a) with regard to the United Kingdom (1) total consumption of cotton in the United Kingdom, with particulars of the chief sources of supply; (2) total exports of cotton manufactures from the United Kingdom to foreign countries, to self-governing colonies, to India, and to other British Possessions; (3) total imports of cotton manufactures into the United Kingdom; (b) with regard to the United States and Germany (1) total consumption of cotton; (2) total exports of cotton manufactures; (3) total imports of cotton manufactures, giving separately the amount of such imports from the United Kingdom. 2. Mr. Matthew Ridley—Woollen Goods—Return showing for each year from 1890 to 1902, inclusive; (a) with regard to the United Kingdom (1) total production of woollen manufactures;

(2) total exports, quantities and values, of woollen manufactures to foreign countries, self-governing colonies, India, and other British Possessions; (3) total imports of woollen manufactures; (b) with regard to the United States and Germany (1) total production of woollen manufactures; (2) total exports, quantities and values, of woollen manufactures; (3) total imports, quantities and values, of woollen manufactures, giving separately the quantities and values of such imports from the United Kingdom. 3. Mr. Matthew Ridley—Iron and Steel—Return showing for each year from 1890 to 1902, inclusive; (a) with regard to the United Kingdom (1) total production of iron and steel manufactures; (2) total exports, quantities and values, of iron and steel manufactures to foreign countries, to self-governing colonies, to India, and to other British Possessions; (3) total imports of iron and steel manufactures; (b) with regard to the United States and Germany (1) total production of iron and steel manufactures; (2) total exports, quantities and values, of iron and steel manufactures; (3) total imports, quantities and values, of iron and steel manufactures, giving separately the quantities and values of such imports from the United Kingdom.

Fiscal Inquiry.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES (Lynn Regis): I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer, is he aware that in 1901 sea fish of British take was landed in the United Kingdom of the value of £9,046,554, and that in 1902 diamonds to the value of £5,380,390 were exported from the Cape of Good Hope to the United Kingdom, and that neither of these two sums is included in the total value of all imports given in any published official statistics, and will he explain why this is. Are there any other articles imported into the United Kingdom the value whereof is omitted from the total value of all imports published in the statistics in question; and, if so, what are they?

*THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER (Mr. RITCHIE, Croydon): Fresh fish of British taking imported in British ships are exempt from report and entry under the Customs Statutes, and consequently the Board of Customs have no *data* for compiling statistics on the subject. I understand that particulars are prepared and published by the Board of Trade. I doubt if freshly caught fish could properly be described as imports either from a foreign country or a British possession. The Returns of the importation of diamonds are very imperfect, but the figure which my hon. friend quotes as regards imports from Cape Colony is already given in a note on page 39 of Volume I. of the Annual Statement of Trade. Whether this figure should be included in the total of imports is worth considering, and I will see that it receives attention; but the information would in any case be incomplete. My hon. friend is no doubt aware that the Abstract Tables at the commencement of the Annual Statement exclude bullion and specie, and also foreign merchandise transhipped under bond.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES: I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer, is he aware that up to 1853 a general Customs duty was levied in the United Kingdom of 5s. per cwt. on turbot and on soles of foreign take, while soles of British take were admitted free; and do His Majesty's Government, as part of the inquiry now being conducted, propose to inquire into the advisability of giving to British fishermen the advantages of a preferential tariff by re-imposing the fish duties.

*MR. RITCHIE: The answer to the first paragraph is in the affirmative. With regard to the second paragraph I cannot add anything to the statements which have been made on the question by the Prime Minister.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES: Notwithstanding the view which the right hon. Gentleman has put forward it seems that fish is regarded as an import. In the previous answer he denied that it is chargeable.

*MR. RITCHIE: What I said was that freshly caught fish could hardly be called imports from foreign countries.

MR. JAMES LOWTHER (Kent, Thanet): Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that great exception is taken to foreign fish coming here free whilst our cargoes are subject to heavy imposts abroad ?

*MR. RITCHIE: I have heard that statement with regard to all other kinds of goods.

The Fiscal Inquiry—Colonial Contributions to Imperial Defence.

DR. MACNAMARA (Camberwell, N.): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether, in connection with the inquiry which it is understood the Cabinet is now making into the fiscal policy of the Empire, any questions will be put to Colonial Governments suggesting the desirableness of proportionate contribution to the cost of Imperial defence ; and if not, whether, having regard to the burden of Imperial defence placed upon the taxpayers of the British Isles, he will consider the desirability of submitting the expediency of such contribution as part of the inquiry now being prosecuted.

THE PRIME MINISTER AND FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Mr. A. J. BALFOUR, Manchester, E.): It seems entirely premature to make any statement as to what suggestion should or should not be made to our self-governing colonies.

DR. MACNAMARA : Do I understand that the suggestion in the first part of my Question is accurate ?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR : I will read the answer again. (Answer again read.)

Fiscal Inquiry and British Agriculture.

MR. SOARES (Devonshire, Barnstaple): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether the proposed inquiry into the fiscal system will embrace the conditions of tenure under which British tenant farmers hold their farms and the possibility of their position being worsened by their rents being raised against them in consequence of the proposed increase in the price of corn : I beg also to ask the right hon. Gentleman whether in the proposed inquiry into the fiscal system the question will be considered of the effect on the agricultural industry if permanent pasture in this country be broken up in consequence of an increase in the price of corn, and if ultimately such land should fail to be profitable for corn-growing purposes owing to the development of corn-growing areas in the Colonies.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I am afraid I have no information to give to the hon. Gentleman in reply to his Questions. They appear to be purely hypothetical, and the hypotheses on which the hon. Gentleman has proceeded seem to me, if he will forgive me for saying so, rather fantastic.

Fiscal Inquiry—Preferential Rates on Railways.

MR. FIELD : I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether it is proposed to include in the inquiry on fiscal arrangements the present system of preferential rates to imported goods and produce ; and whether the Railway Department of the Board of Trade will make inquiries and report upon the matter.

MR. BONAR LAW : The answer is in the negative.

Conferences with Colonial Premiers.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES: I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury, in view of the fact that the proceedings of the conferences between the Secretary of State for the Colonies and the Prime Ministers of self-governing colonies, which took place in June to August, 1902, have hitherto been treated as confidential, and that only the statements made by His Majesty's Government thereat and the various Resolutions passed were made public, will His Majesty's Government publish the full report of the proceedings of these conferences, setting forth the special difficulties and considerations which affected the members of the conference in the practical consideration of the different subjects, before inviting public discussion of the proposals embodied in certain Resolutions therein agreed to relative to preferential trade within the Empire.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: Perhaps my hon. friend will allow me to refer him to an answer given by my right hon. friend the Colonial Secretary to the hon.

Member for Dundee on June 19th. It is to the effect that the matter was fully considered at the time, and that the Government are not aware of any circumstances which have arisen likely to induce the gentlemen who objected to publication to modify their views.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES was understood to ask if some such course was not desirable in view of the discussion now going on in the country.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: This is not a new subject at all. The Blue-book has long been in the hands of Members, and having been published and circulated, is of course open to discussion.

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON (Dundee): May I ask whether the unpublished account of the proceedings will be laid before the Cabinet in the course of the inquiry which it is undertaking?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: There are no secrets of this kind kept from the Cabinet.

Income Tax Returns.

MR. FIELD: I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he will make inquiry and consider the advisability of simplifying the form of income tax returns to be filled by traders, and of modifying the present practice of calculating future hypothetical profits as a basis of income tax assessments.

*MR. RITCHIE: I shall be glad to consider any practical suggestions on this point, but the present Form has been very carefully revised within the last two years, and I doubt if it is possible to simplify it further than has already been done. An explanatory Memorandum is now issued with it, which I hope may be an aid to the reading and the understanding of the Form. If the hon. Member would look at this Memorandum he would see that traders are not required to make a calculation of future hypothetical profits, but are directed to base their return on their ascertained profits for the three years immediately preceding the year of assessment.

MR. FLYNN (Cork County, N.): Is it not the fact that traders are still required in the month of November or December to furnish a return of their profits for the year ending the following 31st March?

*MR. RITCHIE: I do not see how that could be.

MR. FLYNN: If I furnish the right hon. Gentleman with the information will he inquire?

*MR. RITCHIE: Certainly.

MR. FLYNN: I can do so.

Vaccination Exemption Certificates.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he is aware that Mr. J. C. Compton, the presiding magistrate at the Police Court, Stratford, E., recently refused to grant to Charles Crossley, of Byrom Avenue, East Ham, a certificate of exemption from vaccination, notwithstanding the fact that Crossley asserted that he conscientiously believed that vaccination would be prejudicial to the health of the child; and will he have some inquiry made with a view to ascertain why applicants at the Stratford Police Court are unable to obtain certificates of exemption from vaccination.

*THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT (Mr. AKERS DOUGLAS, Kent, St. Augustine's): I am informed that the application for a certificate of exemption was carefully considered, but that the applicant did not satisfy the Court, as required by the Act, of his conscientious belief that vaccination would be prejudicial to the health of his child. The fact that 159 certificates were granted during the past year at this Court shows that it is not the case that certificates are systematically refused.

Railway Cattle Transit—Humane Cattle Cars.

MR. FIELD: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Agriculture whether he is aware that the Railway Companies' Conference have refused to allow a patented humane cattle car to run over their systems in Great Britain; and, if so, whether he will cause inquiry to be made, with a view to enable and encourage a more humane system of live stock land transit to be introduced in the three kingdoms.

Mr. AILWYN FELLOWES (Huntingdonshire, Ramsey): The Board of Agriculture have not recently received any information as to the views entertained by the railway companies as to the merits of the car to which the hon. Member refers, which I think we are right in assuming is the car patented by Mr. John Rooth in 1894 and 1895 and now the property of the Humane Cattle Car and Ship Fittings Co., Ltd. We are always very glad to receive any suggestions for the protection of animals from suffering during inland transit, but we have no power to prescribe the use of a particular wagon. I may add that in 1901 the car in question was examined independently by the carriage and wagon superintendents of the railway companies represented on the Cheshire Lines Committee, who found themselves unable to recommend its adoption.

Rotten Row Ambulances.

Mr. CLAUDE HAY (Shoreditch, Hoxton): I beg to ask the hon. Member for West Derbyshire, as representing the First Commissioner of Works, whether he will arrange that a police ambulance shall be stationed at the west end of Rotten Row, and thus obviate the delay incurred in obtaining the police ambulance from Hyde Park Police Station; and whether he will arrange for the St. John's ambulances to be removed from their present positions in Hyde Park and for the police ambulances to be substituted.

Mr. VICTOR CAVENDISH (Derbyshire, W.): In answer to the first paragraph I am to say that there is already an ambulance stationed at the Alexandra Gate near the west end of Rotten Row, in order to obviate the delay of sending to the Hyde Park Police Station. The First Commissioner is making arrangements for an inspection of both types of ambulance by a medical expert, who will advise whether it is desirable to adopt the police ambulance in place of those now in use.

Mr. GIBSON BOWLES: Why not consider the desirability of obviating the necessity for ambulances by improving the state of the roads?

[No answer was returned.]

Port of Ness Breakwater and Pier.

Mr. WEIR: I beg to ask the Lord Advocate whether the Secretary for Scotland has yet received a report as to the extent of damage sustained by the breakwater at Port of Ness, Island of Lewis, through the storm of the 28th February last; and will he say whether any decision has yet been arrived at in regard to its repair.

The SOLICITOR-GENERAL for SCOTLAND (Mr. Scott Dickson, Glasgow, Bridgton): The Secretary for Scotland has received a report as to the damage sustained by the breakwater. The question as to repairs of breakwater and pier must be considered together, and in connection with other expenditure which may be suggested in the Island of Lewis.

Vaccination in Scotland.

Mr. WEIR: I beg to ask the Lord Advocate, having regard to the fact that the use of humanised vaccine lymph has been discontinued in England on the recommendation of the Royal Commission, and that during the year 1902 the Central Vaccine Institution for Scotland supplied on application from parochial vaccinators in various parts of Scotland 312 tubes of humanised lymph, will he consider the expediency of issuing a circular to parochial vaccinators throughout Scotland recommending the use of glycerinated calf lymph.

Mr. SCOTT DICKSON: The proportion of calf lymph issued by the Vaccine Institution in Scotland shows that the use of that lymph is increasing, and the Secretary for Scotland after consulting the Local Government Board is of opinion that under all the circumstances it is not at present necessary to issue any circular on the subject. Parochial vaccinators have complete discretion in the matter.

Crime in County Clare.

Mr. WILLIAM REDMOND (Clare, E.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that Judge Carton received white gloves at the recent Ennis Quarter Sessions; and whether, in view of the peaceable state of the County Clare, the proclamation of certain districts under the Criminal Law and Procedure (Ireland) Act will now be withdrawn.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND (Mr. WYNDHAM, Dover): It is somewhat irregular to make a statement in anticipation of a more official announcement. But since the hon. Member postponed his Question at my request, perhaps I may say that action is contemplated in the direction which he favours.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND: That is a very satisfactory announcement.

Mayo Piers and Harbours.

DR. AMBROSE (Mayo, W): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been drawn to the report issued by the county surveyor for County Mayo, at the request of the Mayo County Council, on the condition of certain piers and harbours along the coast, notably those at Clare Island, Louisburgh, and Mallaranny; and whether, seeing that, in order to render them of use to the public, the county surveyor recommended that certain improvements be effected, he will see that those improvements are carried out

MR. WYNDHAM: No, Sir. The report has not been forwarded to the Government. Until this has been done I cannot make any observations upon it.

Lung Grazing Lands.

MR. TULLY (Leitrim, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether the Congested Districts Board can state how many houses have been built, and how many farms have been formed out of the grazing lands in the neighbourhood of Lung, adjacent to the Dillon Estate; what has been the cost of this transaction; what was the fine required from prospective tenants; and how many tenants have been put into occupation of these houses and lands.

MR. WYNDHAM: Fourteen houses and fourteen holdings. The cost of the buildings was £1,472. No tenants are yet in occupation.

Granard Union Nurses.

MR. T. M. HEALY (Louth, N.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland if he would lay upon the Table the notes of evidence taken by the Local Government inspector at the recent inquiry into the nursing question at Granard Union.

MR. WYNDHAM: The notes of evidence taken at this inquiry form a very voluminous document extending to 200 pages. The cost of printing the notes would be considerable, and there does not appear to be any special reason for incurring the expense, the more especially as the notes have already been forwarded by the Local Government Board to the local authority. If, however, the hon. Member desires a copy of the notes I will direct that one be forwarded him.

MR. T. M. HEALY: I shall be much obliged for them.

Boyle Waterworks Loan.

MR. TULLY: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether the Board of Works can state when they received from the Local Government Board their sanction of a loan to the Boyle No. 1 District Council for the construction of waterworks in Boyle; and can he explain the delay that has arisen in the issuing of this loan.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY (Mr. ELLIOT, Durham): The delay was caused by the fact that the Rural Council did not reply till the 16th June to a letter from the Board of Works of the 18th May making inquiry on an essential point. So far as the Board of Works is concerned the case has been exceptionally hastened, having been specially submitted for Treasury sanction.

MR. KILBRIDE (Kildare, S.): Who is the Chairman of the Rural District Council?

Mr. ELLIOT: I cannot say without notice.

Mr. TULLY: Is he removable?

No answer was returned.

Irish Income Tax Appeals.

Mr. FIELD: I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he is aware that in several cases of appeals last year at the Custom House, Dublin, to the Income Tax Commissioners in Ireland, they refused to go into cases in which the Returns had not been previously furnished, but confirmed the assessment without inquiry; and, if so, whether he will issue instructions to ensure that appeals shall be heard in the absence of previous Returns in future in Ireland as well as in Great Britain.

*Mr. RITCHIE: The meaning of the hon. Member's Question is not clear. If by "Returns," he means "Returns for Assessment" (Form No. 11), the Special Commissioners never refuse to go into cases on appeal, on the ground that such "Return" had not been made by an appellant. If by "Returns," he means the *Accounts* necessary to enable the Special Commissioners to ascertain the correct liability, those accounts should be supplied prior to the hearing of the appeal at the date and in the form required by the precept issued to the appellants in such cases. The law and the practice in regard to these points are the same in Ireland as in Great Britain.

Irish Motor-Car Race—Breakdown of Telegraphic Arrangements.

Mr. J. P. FARRELL (Longford, N.): I beg to ask the Postmaster-General whether his attention has been called to the fact that it took four hours to send a telegram from the scene of the automobile race to London; and, if so, will he state whether any special arrangements had been made by the Dublin office to provide extra clerks for despatches, Press and otherwise, on this occasion; whether there is any breakdown in the cable connecting the two countries; and what steps he intends taking to prevent such delay.

The POSTMASTER-GENERAL (Mr. Austen Chamberlain, Worcestershire, E.): Special arrangements were made for dealing with the telegraphic traffic on the occasion of the automobile race, but I much regret to find that serious delay occurred in the transmission of telegrams between Ballyshannon and London. I am investigating the cause.

Irish Telegraphic Delays

Mr. J. P. FARRELL: I beg to ask the Postmaster-General to explain the cause of delay in the delivery of telegrams between London and Dublin, and London and parts of rural Ireland; whether he can explain how it was that on Tuesday, 30th June, a telegram sent from Churton Street, London, to Longford at 11 a.m. was not delivered till 3 p.m., whereas a later telegram sent from Fleet Street at 1.30 p.m. was delivered to same address half-an-hour before the other wire was received there; will he state is the delay due to mechanical difficulties or breakdowns, or due to atmospheric conditions, and what steps he proposes to take in the matter.

Mr. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: I am having special inquiry made with regard to the transmission of telegrams between Ireland and London, but I may say at once that there does not appear to be anything like the delay which the Question of the hon. Member implies. The only telegram answering his description which can be traced as having been handed in at Churton Street on the 30th ultimo was handed in at 11.26, and reached Longford at 12.8. If the hon. Member is satisfied that its delivery was delayed for three hours at Longford, I shall be glad if he will supply me with all the information in his possession, so that I may make full inquiry into the circumstances.

Mr. J. P. FARRELL: I will do so.

Irish Gold Ornaments—Gift to the Irish Academy.

Sir THOMAS ESMONDE (Wexford, N.): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury, if he will state how the case stands in the matter of the Irish gold ornaments, and whether they are likely soon to be transferred to Ireland.

Mr. WILLIAM REDMOND: I beg also to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether, in view of Mr. Justice

Farwell's declaration that the Celtic ornaments in the British Museum are the property of the Crown, arrangements will now be made to have them placed in the Dublin Museum.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: These gold ornaments have been declared by the judgment of Mr. Justice Farwell to be treasure trove, and therefore the property of the Crown. In these circumstances, His Majesty has been graciously pleased to express the wish that they should be presented as a free gift to the treasurer of the Irish Academy, and His Majesty's Commissioners of the Treasury have accordingly given instructions that His Majesty's wishes should be carried out.

SIR THOMAS ESMONDE: The First Lord has made an extremely satisfactory announcement, which will be received with much pleasure in Ireland. I take the opportunity of conveying to the right hon. Gentleman and to the Chief Secretary our thanks for the attitude which they have taken up. I am sure their action will be regarded with much satisfaction by the Irish representatives. May I ask the right hon. Gentleman whether he will arrange that these ornaments shall be brought down to the tea-room of the House, so that hon. Members who have no other opportunity may be enabled to see them?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I will consider the point, but I am not sure that the policy which the hon. Baronet recommends is not rather a condemnation of that which I have tried to promote. He apparently thinks that if these ornaments once go to Ireland they would be buried from public sight.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL: We want some of you to see them.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND: May I ask the right hon. Gentleman, in view of his gratifying statement, whether the transference of these ornaments to Ireland does not fulfil the object of the Bill which I introduced six years ago, and whether, in view of that, the Government will, in order to save time and the expense of lawsuits, treat my future Bills with more consideration.

MR. WHITLEY (Halifax): Can the right hon. Gentleman say how much it has cost the Treasury to decide to whom these ornaments belonged?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: No, Sir, I am afraid I cannot answer that Question without notice. In regard to the Question of the hon. Member for East Clare, I am afraid that I cannot carry in my mind all the legislative projects with which he has been associated, but I will give the matter my close attention.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND: It will be useful to the Government if the right hon. Gentleman does so.

Contempt of Court.

MR. O'DOWD (Sligo, S.): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether, and, if so, when, the Government will afford facilities for the introduction and passage through this House of a Bill to amend the law relating to contempt of Court in Ireland.

MR. FIELD: May I at the same time ask the First Lord of the Treasury, whether his attention has been directed to the condition of the law regarding imprisonment for contempt of Court; and whether the Government will consider the necessity of bringing in a Bill to regulate and define the powers to be exercised by a Judge in such cases.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I do not make any assertions as to the law on this subject being perfect in its present state, but I cannot promise to introduce legislation on the subject in the course of the present session.

Terminable Leaseholds.

MR. FIELD: I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether he will arrange to afford an opportunity for the discussion of a measure proposing to remedy the defects and powers existing under the present terminable leasehold system of tenure if a Bill dealing with this subject is introduced by a private Member.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I regret I cannot encourage the idea of opportunity being found for the discussion of a private Member's Bill at this period of the session, and even if I were not barred by that consideration I could not give an answer in respect of a Bill which I have not yet had the advantage of seeing.

MR. FLAVIN (Kerry, N.): Is the right hon. Gentleman not aware that a Bill dealing with this subject has been introduced for the last ten years?

[No answer was returned.]

Housing of the Working Classes.

DR. MACNAMARA: I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether he can now fix the date for the introduction of the Bill to deal with certain matters affecting the housing of the working classes.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I cannot fix a date for the introduction of the Bill to deal with certain matters affecting the housing of the working classes, but my right hon. friend the President of the Local Government Board will very shortly bring the measure in.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN (Stirling Burghs): As there have been several changes during the last two days perhaps the Leader of the House will say now what business will be taken in the next few days.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: The Education Estimates will be taken to-morrow, and the Scottish Licensing Bill on Friday. On Monday the Second Reading of the Naval Works Bill will be taken, followed by the Scottish Licensing Bill, if that measure is not concluded on Friday. On Tuesday, the London Education Bill will be taken.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: May I point out that the Scottish Licensing Bill, as amended in the Standing Committee, has only been delivered to hon. Members this morning. It is an elaborate Bill, or rather an amalgamation of two Bills that have been greatly changed, and the public of Scotland will have no opportunity of informing Members of the views held in that country upon it, if the measure is taken on Friday. I do not wish to put any impediment in the way of the Bill, but the right hon. Gentleman will see it can only go down to Scotland to-night.

MR. LOUGH (Islington, W.): Will the Sugar Convention Bill be taken next week?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I think it is very improbable that the Sugar Convention Bill will be taken next week; in any case not in the earlier part of the week. As regards the question of the right hon. Gentleman the Leader of the Opposition, I appreciate his point, but it is extremely difficult, I am afraid, in the general position of business to say what we can substitute for the Scottish Bill on Friday. I am quite willing, however, to consider the matter.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: The Bill is exciting great interest in Scotland, and it is only fair that the Scottish people should have a chance of seeing it in its amended form before we further deal with it. What will be taken after the Education Vote on Thursday?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: Civil Service Estimates, Class 2, Scotch Votes.

MR. LAMBERT (Devonshire, South Molton): Will the South African Loan and War Contribution Bill be taken to-night?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: No, Sir.

MR. JOHN REDMOND (Waterford): May I ask whether in the event of the Irish Land Bill passing through Committee to-night, the right hon. Gentleman can say when the Report stage will be taken? We all recognise that a reasonable interval is necessary, but it is right to say that there is a very strong feeling on the Irish benches that there ought to be no long delay, and that the Report stage ought to be taken as soon as possible, so that the measure can go to the House of Lords at the earliest possible date.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I cannot give any pledge to the hon. Member, but of course I will bear in mind any considerations which he may bring before me.

MR. JOHN REDMOND: I will repeat my Question in a couple of days.

AGED PENSIONERS BILL.

Ordered, That the Old Age Pensions (Friendly Societies) Bill of Session 1898; the Old Age Provident Pensions Bill of Session 1900; the Old Age Pensions (No. 3) Bill; Old Age Pensions (No. 4) Bill; and Old Age Pensions (No. 5) Bill of Session 1901; and the Old Age Pensions Bill; Aged Pensioners (No. 2) Bill; and Cottage Homes Bill of the present session, be referred to the Select Committee on the Aged Pensioners Bill.—(*Mr. Grant Lawson.*)

IRISH LAND BILL.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. J. W. LOWTHER (Cumberland, Penrith) in the Chair.]

Clause 82.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 37, line 15, to leave out the words (other than domestic or menial servant).'"—(*Mr. Tully.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the clause."

MR. TULLY (Leitrim, S.) said that since he had put down this Amendment the right hon. Gentleman the Chief Secretary had brought forward a new clause which went far in the direction of helping the labourers. What he desired to secure was that when an estate was for sale the Land Commissioners should among other things inquire as to the necessity for housing the labourers. Under the circumstances he would not press his Amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. TULLY said that with regard to the next Amendment standing in his name, the object was to ascertain if there was power to build cottages for labourers in towns which were not urban districts, and for labourers living on the outskirts of towns. This was a matter of some importance. In some cases the free grant from the Exchequer had been accumulating for some years. In Roscommon, the annual grant was £837, in Leitrim, £445, in Longford, £276, in Sligo, £657, and in Mayo, £944. His contention was, that the labourers living on the outskirts of these towns should not be deprived of the right of getting cottages.

Amendment, proposed—

"In page 37, line 15, at end, to insert the words 'town under the Towns Improvement (Ireland) Act, 1854, or a.' In page 37, line 16, after the word 'rural' to insert the words 'or urban.' In page 37, line 16, after the word 'district,' to insert the word 'or in an urban district with a population of less than 5,000 at the last census, and."—(*Mr. Tully.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL FOR IRELAND (Mr. ATKINSON, Londonderry, N.) said the Acts did not apply to urban districts.

MR. T. W. RUSSELL (Tyrone, S.) said there was nothing in this Bill which would make anything like a settlement of the labourers question.

*THE CHAIRMAN: Order, order! The hon. Member is not entitled to discuss the clause as a whole.

MR. T. W. RUSSELL said it was not his intention to do that. All he wished to do was to ask whether it was intended under the circumstances to go on with the labourers' clauses in the Bill?

THE CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND (Mr. WYNDHAM, Dover) said he had at an earlier stage of the discussion, made a statement on this very important question. He did not say that these clauses were a satisfactory settlement of the labourers question, which must hereafter be dealt with. Not only was it a large and complicated question, dependent on finance, local government and other questions, but alternative methods of dealing with it were recommended by different sections of the House. He had therefore come, with the greatest regret, to the conclusion that it wouldnot be possible to deal with the subject, as it should be dealt with, in this Bill. It was, however, desirable to retain the labourers' clauses, as they were of some value.

MR. TULLY said that in asking leave to withdraw his three Amendments he must point out that the Inspectors of the Local Government Board took a different view of the law from that stated by the Attorney-General.

Amendments, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. O'SHEE (Waterford, W.) moved to leave out two restrictions in the clause—namely, that the term "agricultural labourer" should not include any person working for hire whose wages did not exceed 2s. 6d. a day, and who was in occupation of land exceeding one quarter of an acre. He believed that no fewer than 15,000 houses had been built under these Acts, and of these 4,000 at least were held by persons who occupied more than a quarter of an acre of land. If this restriction were insisted upon the District Councils would have to remove a large number of labourers from the occupation of the cottages.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 37, line 16, to leave out from the words 'district' to end of clause."—(*Mr. O'Shee.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the clause."

MR. ATKINSON said the hon. Member was mistaken in supposing that this was a complete definition. It was only a supplementary one and would not affect those now held to be entitled to the benefits of the Act.

MR. T. M. HEALY: Time should not be taken up with absurdities of this kind.

MR. O'SHEE retorted that a good deal of time was wasted the other day by the absurd speeches of the hon. and learned Member, and again last night as to whether £500 should be given to a certain Commissioner, and as to the procedure in a Court in which he practised, but of which he appeared to be ignorant. Was he to take it that labourers now entitled to the benefits of the Act would not be excluded by reason of this definition?

MR. ATKINSON: They will not.

MR. O'SHEE hoped it would be made perfectly clear. The clause did not to his mind state that with sufficient clearness. He thought that it ought to be made perfectly clear that this was an addition and not an exclusion in the case of any labourer who had obtained, or would be entitled to obtain, a cottage and land under the Labourers Acts as they now are. The incorporation of the amount of wages he thought was a mistake. As a matter of fact, he did not know whether the 2s. 6d. mentioned meant 2s. 6d. for every day in the year, or whether it meant an average daily wage of 2s. 6d.; if it did not mean that they would certainly have many men excluded from the operation of this clause, because although in harvest time many men earned more than 2s. 6d. a day, in other times they did not earn so much.

MR. ATKINSON said words would be introduced to show that it was the average daily wage that was intended.

MR. O'SHEE said that would satisfy him so far as the agricultural labourers were concerned, but the case of rural tradesmen was not met by this provision, and he therefore thought that the limit should be extended so far as they were concerned to 3s. 6d. a day; that would cover the case of the rural tradesmen, and unless that were done he should suggest that the whole of the restriction should be left out.

*MR. CHARLES CRAIG (Antrim, S.) said the position of those who, like himself, had a large number of labourers in their constituencies was most unsatisfactory, and he would like to know how the Chief Secretary intended to deal with this matter. He did not wish to waste the time of the Committee by discussing an Amendment which would not be accepted, but it was important that the labourers question should be settled, and he asked whether the subject would be dealt with by further legislation, and whether the Chief Secretary would give an undertaking to introduce such legislation early next session.

MR. WYNDHAM said he was of opinion that a Labourers Bill must be passed, and he would devote part of the autumn to considering this subject. It would be a mistake to deal piecemeal with the question. He therefore asked that this Amendment should be postponed.

MR. CLANCY (Dublin County, N.) said the labourers had been expecting that their case would be dealt with in any Bill relating to the distribution of land in Ireland. He felt that certain clauses which would carry out the views of the labourers ought to be proposed, but, after the Chief Secretary's statement, he supposed it would be useless to propose these clauses.

COLONEL SAUNDERSON (Armagh, S.) said it would be satisfactory if the right hon. Gentleman would give an assurance that a Labourers' Bill would be brought forward and pressed through the House next session. In many cases the labourers were a defenceless class. Their position in the North was probably worse than in the South. If a labourer, living in a hovel not fit for a pig, petitioned to have a house built, he would be instantly turned off the farm; consequently, however much the Irish tenants disliked the Irish landlords, the labourers disliked the tenants more

MR. WILLIAM O'BRIEN (Cork) expressed his gratification that these clauses were in no way to be regarded as a settlement of the question. It was well to remember that this question was of tremendous importance for the future peace of Ireland, and an hour or two was by no means wasted if spent in coming to some sort of understanding with regard to it. He joined in pressing the right hon. Gentleman to give an assurance that a separate Labourers Bill would form the principal part of the Irish business of next session if he was then in office. The new clause was excellent so far as it went, but the frightful stream of emigration of agricultural labourers would never be stopped until the labourers were placed in the same favourable position as the small holders of the West hoped to be in under the present Bill. The two classes were really one, and deserved the same treatment. They both lived principally by wages, and the labourers once possessed land from which they were driven into the present wretched hovels by eviction or famine. Except for a few weeks in spring and harvest-time, the wages were not sufficient to counteract the temptation of a passage across the Atlantic, and the result was that practically the whole of the vigorous young labouring population of the South was emigrating. If that emigration was to be checked the promised Labourers Bill would have to go much further than any of the existing Labourers Acts. These men would have to be given some opening on the land, so that they could marry and settle down with better prospects than they had at present. It always seemed to be one of the little ironies of life that, whereas in England a premium would almost be given to people to live on the land, it was rendered almost impossible for the small farmer or labourer in Ireland, whose predominant passion was to possess some land, to do so. He hoped that as soon as the pressure of the present Bill was over the Chief Secretary would apply himself to this question with as much success as he had undoubtedly done in regard to the Western question, and that he would see whether something could not be done in the direction he had indicated in order to keep the labouring population at home. He believed the right hon. Gentleman would find the difficulty was not want of land, because in all the southern and central counties there could be bought, without inflicting injustice upon anybody, plenty of land which would afford comfortable homes for double the present population.

MR. CREAN (Cork Co., S.E.) urged that the limit of 2s. 6d. should be increased to 3s. Many labourers got as much as 4s. per day for two or three weeks, while their average for the whole year would be only 2s. If the right hon. Gentleman would make the amount 3s. he would go a long way towards meeting the views of the Irish Members on the point.

MR. SHEEHAN (Cork Co., Mid), while appreciating the promise of the right hon. Gentleman to introduce a Labourers

Bill next year, thought it would be a misfortune if the present measure were allowed to pass without dealing with the question to as large an extent as possible. Great dissatisfaction would be felt among the labouring classes if their moderate and just claims were not in some way considered, and he urged that, at any rate, the 2s. 6d. limit should be increased to 3s. He hoped the right hon. Gentleman would make an explicit statement as to when he intended to introduce the Labourers Bill.

MR. FLYNN (Cork Co., N.) was greatly disappointed at the announcement that no scheme for dealing with this question was to be included in the present Bill. A measure was promised for next year, but, with all his good intentions, the right hon. Gentleman might not then be in the position he now occupied. A bird in the hand was worth two in the bush, and a future Chief Secretary might not feel himself bound by the pledges of his predecessor. It would have been extremely easy for the right hon. Gentleman or his advisers to have drafted a clause enlarging the powers of the local bodies, and facilitating the operation by which a labourer could get a decent cottage, and he was very sorry that nothing of the sort had been done.

MR. DILLON (Mayo, E.) said he understood that the 2s. 6d. limit applied to country workers and men who were not really agricultural workers. He could not accept the view taken by the Member for Cork when he said that the average earnings of an agricultural labourer amounted to 3s. a day, for he never came across such a specimen. The question was not a very large one, but it was, nevertheless, important, because, if they excluded these men from all chance of getting better houses, they would be simply compelling them to live in hovels in towns and wretched little villages where accommodation for them was bad, and where they would have to walk great distances to their work. The limit should be raised to some reasonable point, or else done away with altogether.

MR. KILBRIDE (Kildare, S.) contended that if they maintained this limit many of those men who desired to reside in country districts would be prevented from doing so. The village rate of wages for carpenters or masons was considerably more than this limit, and therefore they would be excluded. Upon these grounds he pressed upon the Chief Secretary the necessity of at least raising the limit to 3s. 6d. or 4s. per day. By doing that he would be including to a larger extent the very class that he was endeavouring to bring under the Labourers Acts who were now excluded by the definition of "labourer" in the Labourers Acts. He had great pleasure in supporting the Amendment of his hon. friend the Member for West Waterford. He hoped that if the Chief Secretary could not agree to exclude the limit altogether he would at least consent to raise it to 3s. 6d. or 4s.

MR. CULLINAN (Tipperary, S.) said that as one who had had a good deal of experience of the working of the Labourers Acts he must say that this limitation would be very detrimental. Instead of imposing more restrictions they ought to give more latitude to encourage the authorities to be more generous upon this question. In many districts they had a great number of artisans who were not able to get employment the whole year round. Those men were earning more than 2s. 6d. a day, and if they meant to bring them under the scope of the Labourers Acts they should increase the 2s. 6d. limit to at least 4s. He strongly urged the Chief Secretary to accept the general view expressed by hon. Members from Ireland upon this subject.

MR. WYNDHAM assured the Committee that he was quite aware of the importance of this question, but he was not prepared to make any change in regard to this problem at present, which involved many fiscal elements. He was not prepared to accept Amendments without examination as to the ultimate fiscal bearing of such proposals, and it was not in his power to do so. He was not in a position at the present time to deal with this question on a larger scale than that which now appeared in the Bill. In this clause he had only tried to do what could be done whilst they were passing the Land Bill, and he had not attempted to deal with the labourers' question because time did not permit. There was not time this session either for the Chancellor of the Exchequer or for himself to take up another great question. He agreed that it was an important subject; but he was not in a position to deal with it now. He would undertake to give the matter his consideration during the autumn.

Mr. T. M. HEALY said there was an Amendment on the Paper in the name of the hon. Member for Mid Cork which would not take the Committee one minute to adopt. There was no objection taken to it, and why on earth the Government could not agree to it he could not understand.

Mr. JOHN REDMOND (Waterford) said he was glad the Chief Secretary had not complained that the debate on this point had taken up some time, and he was glad also that he had recognised the importance of this question. There would be the most widespread disappointment at this Bill going through without valuable clauses dealing with the labourers' question. While he admitted that there was a difficulty in dealing with the question at this period of the session, he must express his deep regret that this Bill was not brought on earlier, in which case it would have been possible to have devoted sufficient time to the consideration of the labourers question to have enabled the right hon. Gentleman to make some valuable improvements in the law. He admitted that under existing circumstances it was difficult for the right hon. Gentleman to afford sufficient time to deal thoroughly with this question. The only satisfaction they had was that the right hon. Gentleman had most candidly admitted that these clauses did not attempt a settlement of the labourers' question, and he had promised to devote himself to the matter during the autumn; and he took that to include a promise to introduce next session a Bill to give effect to the result of his consideration of the subject during the autumn. Mere inquiry by the right hon. Gentleman without the assurance that he would legislate at the earliest possible moment would be of very little value. There would certainly be the gravest dissatisfaction and disappointment amongst the labourers all through the country who had been looking forward to this Bill to obtain some of their rights. Of course, they could not press the right hon. Gentleman to turn this Bill into a comprehensive Labourers Bill, and they must be satisfied with the assurance he had given and press upon him the necessity of accepting one or two of the Amendments which had been alluded to. The hon. and learned Member for Louth had alluded to one Amendment, and there were others on the Paper of a similar character. Without embarrassing himself or occupying too much time the Chief Secretary might at least make the clauses he was proposing as workable as possible. They admitted that he could not turn this into a complete Labourers Bill, but if he would meet the points raised in the Amendments they would accept the inevitable and trust to the right hon. Gentleman, after consideration, introducing a comprehensive and satisfactory Bill doing full justice to the labourers.

Mr. WYNDHAM said the effect of the Amendment upon which they were now engaged would be to alter the money standard. That would bring in a number of other persons—he did not know how many—but he could not do that because the Labourers Acts rested upon the financial foundations of the rest of the Bill. It was not within his power as a Minister to embark upon an extension of policy which involved unmeasured fiscal burdens. He was willing to accept small Amendments here and there which would not add to the fiscal charges of the Bill. The Amendment which the hon. and learned Member for Louth asked him to accept would change the character of the Bill considerably.

Mr. J. P. FARRELL (Longford, N.) said Clause 82 would really impose restrictions which did not exist at present under the Labourers Acts. From that point of view would not the right hon. Gentleman accept the Amendment of the hon. Member for West Waterford? The whole prospects of the labourers were rather damnified than otherwise by the proposals in the Bill. While he was glad to hear that the right hon. Gentleman would propose a Bill in the next session of Parliament dealing with the question of the labourers he felt bound to enter his strongest protest against the refusal of the small and reasonable Amendment proposed by his hon. friend. The Chief Secretary seemed to think that under the law as it stood the labourers were being dealt with at the rate of hundreds per month. That was not the case, for it took years to get a small scheme through. The acceptance of this Amendment would not interfere with the financial arrangements of the Bill, and the whole question would be left open to be dealt with next year.

MR. MURPHY (Kerry, E.) said that all interested in the labourers must feel grievously disappointed. He could not understand why in dealing with the land question they should not at the same time deal with the agricultural labourers. The land agitation was due primarily to the condition of the congested districts and the condition of the agricultural labourers, and now they found that the Chief Secretary stated that he had not had time to deal with the question of the labourers in a full and efficient manner. The right hon. Gentleman had promised to consider the question. He hoped hon. Members would not think that any promise had been made to bring in a Bill next year. Even if there was such a promise he felt a difficulty in relying upon it in view of what might happen in the meantime. The Chief Secretary might be Prime Minister, or the extraordinary trade wind which was blowing might waft him and his Party on to the Opposition side of the House. He could not understand why reasonable provision should not be made for the labourers now. One of the difficulties hitherto in dealing with them was that the Acts were administered by the Local Government Board. There were substantial sums remaining to the credit of many counties at present, and, as the hon. Member for Louth had pointed out, there was not the least possible chance that houses would be built in six weeks or six months. He should like to see a provision inserted in the Bill giving to every honest working man in the country an oportunity of securing a house if he had not already a suitable one. If they allowed the limit in the Bill to stand at 2s. 6d. the result would be that practically every labourer in County Kerry would be excluded, because during the harvest season their wages were 3s. a day. He thought they should have a definite promise from the Chief Secretary that provisions would be introduced dealing with the question of the labourers. They ought also to have a promise from the right hon. Gentleman that his inspectors would not impede the progress of schemes which were at present being carried out.

MR. FLAVIN (Kerry, N.) said the clause provided—

> "The expression 'agricultural labourer' in the Labourers (Ireland) Acts, 1883 to 1896, and this Act shall include any person (other than a domestic or a menial servant) working for hire in a rural district whose wages do not exceed 2s. 6d. a day, and who is not in occupation of land exceeding one quarter of an acre.'"

What was the nature of the employment from which that wage was to be derived. When an inquiry was held a question might arise as to what was the average wage. There were many districts in Ireland where artisans were hired at so much per day including food, and there were other districts where they got a fixed sum exclusive of food. He thought the clause should provide that the 2s. 6d. per day was to be exclusive of food. He urged that immediate action should be taken in dealing with the labourers, because unless strong inducements were given to them to remain in the country they would leave in overwhelming numbers.

MR. GORDON (Londonderry, S. said this was not a question in which only one part of Ireland was interested. He did not think any part was more interested in it than the North of Ireland Very great disappointment would be felt among the labourers in that part of the country if nothing adequate was done for them in this measure. He had received resolutions passed by associations of working men asking him to support their views, and therefore he was compelled to enter his protest on their behalf that their position had not been adequately recognised. He could only hope that performance would follow the promise, and that something adequate would be done next year.

Mr. CULLINAN said the Chief Secretary had referred to the financial burden which this proposal would involve. He did not think there would be any greater financial burden because they had the security that the union rate should not exceed 1s. in the £.

Mr. O'SHEE suggested that the clause should provide that the average daily wage of 2s. 6d. should be reckoned over the twelve months preceding the application. They would have troublesome inquiries on this point unless they fixed some definite time to which this standard was to apply.

Mr. ATKINSON said he would consider that matter before the Report stage.

Mr. O'SHEE asked whether the Attorney-General would also consider the advisability of inserting the words "cash wages." The invariable practice of farmers was to employ a carpenter or mason for a certain wage and to provide him with food. Unless some definition more strict was introduced on this point there would be a good deal of friction. He wished to know from the right hon. Gentleman whether a fairly large class of agricultural labourers, who were being excluded in consequence of small towns of over 1,500 inhabitants being converted into urban districts, would now have the benefit of the Labourers Acts. He wanted to know whether the clause as it stood, would cover the case of that class. Although the men lived in the town, they continually went into the rural districts adjoining to work.

Mr. ATKINSON said he would consider the point.

Mr. FLAVIN asked the right hon. Gentleman for an answer on the point he had raised.

Mr. ATKINSON said he did not think it was necessary to deal with that point.

Mr Gordon.

Mr. O'SHEE said he would not withdraw the Amendment as it involved a question of principle.

Question put and agreed to.

Mr. TULLY said that after the very satisfactory assurance of the right hon. Gentleman he would withdraw his Amendment, which would have increased the wages of an agricultural labourer as defined in the clause from 2s. 6d. to 3s. 6d. a day.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Mr. O'SHEE said he wanted to endorse what had been said by the hon. Member for Cork City as to the same basis of treatment being given to the agricultural labourers as to the cottier tenants in the congested districts. In the South of Ireland the great question at present was not the amendment of the Labourers Acts, under which a great deal of good had been done, and almost as much as could be expected under the existing costly and tedious procedure, but as to whether the labourers were to get allotments of land.

Clause 82 agreed to.

Clause 83 agreed to.

Clause 84 agreed to.

Clause 85.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 38, line, 23, at end, to add the words 'the expression " the Public Works Act," means the Drainage and Navigation (Ireland) Acts, 1842 to 1857; the Drainage and Improvement (Ireland) Acts, 1863 to 1892; the Fisheries (Ireland) Act, 1846; the Landed Property and Improvement (Ireland) Act, 1847, and any Act extending, amending, or incorporating the said Acts or any of them or any part thereof; and the Drainage Maintenance Act, 1866.' "—(*Mr. Wyndham.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 38, line 23, at end, to insert the words—'(2) The expression "superior interest," in the Land Purchase Acts, shall include any reversion or estate expectant on the determination of an estate tail or a base fee, whether such reversion or estate is or is not vested in the Crown.' "—(*Mr. Wyndham.*)

MR. WYNDHAM said that this was a very great concession, not only in principle, but, what was of more importance, because it would remove many impediments in the way of land purchase.

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 85, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 86 to 89 agreed to.

NEW CLAUSES.

MR. WYNDHAM said he did not want to say a single word in regard to the first two new clauses he wished to submit to the Committee. He moved:—

New Clause (Sanction of advances in cases not within the zones.)

"In page 3, after Clause 4, to insert the following clause:—'In the case of the sale of an estate where an application for an advance, to which the provisions of Sub-section 1 of Section 1 of this Act do not apply, is made, the Land Commission may, subject to the limitations in the Land Purchase Acts, advance the whole or part of the purchase money if they are satisfied with the security, and are of opinion that, having regard to all the circumstances of the case, the agreed price is equitable.'"—(*Mr. Wyndham.*)

Brought up, and read the first time.

Motion made and Question, "That the clause be read a second time," put, and agreed to.

Clause added to the Bill.

New Clause (Reservation of Ancient Monuments).

"In page 8, after Clause 2, to insert the following clause:—'(1) Where any land, which is vested under the Land Purchase Acts in a purchaser, contains any ancient monument which, in the opinion of the Land Commission, is a matter of public interest by reason of the historic, traditional, or artistic interest attaching thereto, they may, with the consent of the Commissioners of Public Works in Ireland, by order declare that the property in the monument shall not pass to the purchaser, and make an order vesting the monument in those Commissioners. (2) Where any such order is made, the provisions of the Ancient Monuments Protection Act, 1882, with respect to the maintenance of, and access, and penalties for injury to, ancient monuments, shall apply as if the monument were a monument under the guardianship of those Commissioners in pursuance of that Act. (3) In this section the expression 'ancient monument" means any ancient or mediæval structure, erection, or monument, or any remains thereof."—(*Mr. Wyndham.*)

Brought up, and read the first time.

Motion made and Question, "That the clause be read a second time," put, and agreed to.

Clause added to the Bill.

MR. WYNDHAM said that he did not disguise from himself that the new clause be now proposed was of a most contentious character. He feared that even in respect of its objects it might be held to be contentious in some, although not in all, quarters; but when he considered the source from which the expenditure which must be involved was to be defrayed, then his fear was greater that in no quarter would it find ready acceptance except possibly from the hon. Member for South Molton. He feared that he should have some difficulty in convincing the Committee that this was a proper suggestion at all. He regretted that at this stage of the proceedings he found himself bound to introduce a contentious subject into the debate, and he felt he owed an apology to many members of the Committee who had made suggestions not of a contentious character and whom he had asked to withdraw them on the score that it was not possible to make alterations in the character of the Bill at this date of July. But a Land Bill must be practical if it was to succeed. Facts were facts, and they must be faced; and after long and anxious consideration of the problem of Trinity College head-rents he had come to the conclusion that unless this new clause was added to the Bill land purchase would be hampered over a great part of Ireland. In fact he was not quite confident that even this additional aid would succeed in solving the question, because money alone was not what was required. Trinity College tenure was elaborate and complicated almost beyond belief, and its unfortunate influence, through no fault of Trinity College, had spread in a sporadic way all over Ireland. His reason, on practical grounds, for asking the Committee to pass this clause was that, in his deliberate opinion, if it were not adopted some 9,000 or 10,000 tenant occupiers would be debarred from taking any advantage of this Act, and would not be able to purchase the farms which they now held. He would pass to the technical justification for making this proposal—viz., that

Trinity College head-rents had been dealt with by this House under three, four, and even more special statutes. Therefore there was, in his judgment, a technical justification for taking the Trinity College head-rents out of the ordinary character of superior interests. He did not know whether the Committee would assent to that proposition, but even if they did, they might say—"Very well, but why should you put this burden on the Irish Development Grant? Why not provide for this purpose out of the moneys voted by Parliament?" Well, that would have been a far more agreeable course for himself to take than that which he invited the Committee to take. But this charge had to be taken into consideration with other charges, and he thought they had not altogether failed to meet the money difficulty of the situation.

He would not refer to the £12,000,000 Aid Grant, but there were other proposals in the Bill enabling the appointment of a trustee. On that question it was urged that, even at the last hour, he should recede from the proposals of the Bill and pay that officer by fees instead of by salary. That would have placed a burden on land purchase as a whole. Take again the stamp duty. The Government went very far in regard to the stamp duty in the Bill. It had been urged upon him repeatedly that he had pressed his colleagues too far; that his proposal involved too great a departure from what had been done in the past, and that he ought to be content with taking off the stamp duty from one transaction, and not from both. Again, on that matter, he over-persuaded his right hon. friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer to accept the Bill as it stood. That was half a million of money given in aid of land purchase in Ireland. The other point outstanding was whether the Crown should be asked to waive its rights in respect of these reversionary interests. On that he only succeeded in getting a favourable reply from his right hon. friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer at the eleventh hour. Indeed it was not he that succeeded. The success was to be attributed to his hon. friend, and to the hon. and learned Member for Louth, who pressed the point so assiduously for many hours that his right hon. friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer was convinced that the retention of this reversionary interest would place a great barrier on land purchase in Ireland. It was when they were in that situation that he pressed for some aid in connection with the difficulty regarding statutory head-rents, that his right hon. friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer, whose opinion was that they could not have more money on these side issues, said that if this thing was a practical necessity it must be met out of some Irish money, and that the proper fund was the Irish Development Grant embodied in the Bill already presented to Parliament. As he had said, he was very doubtful of convincing hon. Members opposite that this was the best or the proper course, but it was the only course; and, that being so, he had to consider how this question could be met by casting the least possible burden upon that fund. According to their estimate, £9,000 a year would be needed to completely solve this difficulty; and unless some provision were made to indemnify Trinity College purchase would not go through. The middleman would suffer, and it would be in his interest not to sell unless some such provision were inserted in the Bill. To put, however, a possible expenditure of £9,000 on the Irish Development Grant would burden it unnecessarily. Nine thousand pounds of that Grant would, in that case, be always earmarked, and would not be available for other purposes. They could not finance other projects with that Grant without the reservation that £9,000 of it would not be available. Therefore, he thought it better to put, from the first, a definite charge on the Grant, which would accumulate, and might be held to be sufficient in the long run for dealing with the question of the redemption of Trinity College head-rents. His proposal was to put a charge of £5,000 a year on the Equivalent Grant from the very start. Of course, the whole question of the redemption of the head-rents would not be developed to its full proportions until the land under Trinity College had been sold, and he supposed that that would take about as long as the whole operation of land purchase in Ireland. Those who would speak for Trinity College would make more clear to the Committee the technical difficulties of this subject. He would not say that the friends of Trinity

College were overjoyed at his solution, but they were satisfied with it, and were prepared to accept it as a definite conclusion of the whole matter. It was a technical question, but it was also a practical question, as it concerned 220,000 acres of land, and some 9,000 tenants. Why should those tenants be impeded in availing themselves of the Act, not through any fault of Trinity College, but because of the elaborate and complex system of finance which had been imposed on Trinity College by previous legislation? He submitted the proposal to the Committee as a necessary provision in order that land purchase should not be hung up over a considerable area in Ireland.

New Clause (Trinity College, Dublin).

"In page 19, after Clause 35, to insert the following clause:—'(1) There shall be paid to the public trustee out of the Ireland Development Grant the sum of £5,000 per annum for the account of Trinity College, Dublin. (2) The said sum shall be applied by the public trustee in indemnifying the college against any loss of income arising from the redemption under the Land Purchase Acts of any superior interest owned by the college, that is to say, the difference between the annual income payable in respect of the superior interest and the annual income of the investment in which the redemption money of the superior interest is invested. (3) Any portion of the said sum of £5,000 which in any year is not required to make good loss of income to the college, and any accrued interest thereon, shall be invested by the public trustee, and may be applied in any subsequent year to make good future loss. (4) The investment of the redemption money of any superior interest owned by the college shall be made in accordance with the advice of the public trustee.'"—(*Mr. Wyndham.*)

Brought up, and read the first time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Clause be read a second time."

MR. JOHN REDMOND said he rose to oppose as vigorously as he could the clause of the right hon. Gentleman. It seemed to him that the apology which ran right through the speech of the right hon. Gentleman was in itself a sufficient condemnation of this proposal. The right hon. Gentleman had been cogitating over this Bill for two years or more, and the result of his consideration had been put into this Bill. When proposals were made of a very moderate and admittedly reasonable character, from various quarters of the House, which involved new matter, the right hon. Gentleman met them by saying that he could not, almost at the end of the session, ask the House to take up and seriously consider new and contentious questions. Every proposal which introduced new matter was brushed aside in that manner; yet on the very last day of the Committee stage of the Bill, the right hon. Gentleman springs on the House of Commons a proposal of a most intensely contentious character. He did not know who the right hon. Gentleman had taken into his confidence, except the Members for Trinity College. As far as he knew, the right hon. Gentleman had not consulted any Irish Member in the matter; and the first he himself knew of the clause was when he saw it on the Amendment Paper yesterday. He did not think that was a businesslike way of conducting a Bill, especially at that stage, and almost at the end of the session. The nature of the proposal was such that it was impossible for the Irish Members to abstain from the most vigorous opposition to it. The right hon. Gentleman himself said he knew he was making an unpopular proposal, and he also said that the only hon. Member of whose support he was assured was the hon. Member for South Molton, who, however, voted against the Second Reading of the Bill.

MR. WYNDHAM said he was speaking of the source from which the money was to be taken.

MR. JOHN REDMOND said even with that limitation that was the only support of which the right hon. Gentleman was assured.

MR. BUTCHER (York) said he could assure the hon. Gentleman that the clause would be supported in other quarters of the House.

MR. JOHN REDMOND said no doubt the hon. Gentleman would develop his support later on. He was dealing not with the speech which the hon. Gentleman had not delivered, but with the speech which the right hon. Gentleman had delivered. The right hon. Gentleman said that Trinity College was in a peculiar position; that it had leased out its land at long leases; that the middlemen had re-let to other tenants; and that the land could not be sold under this Bill without inflicting a loss on Trinity College. But Trinity College was not the only landlord in that position. Other landlords had leased their property in the same way, and they would lose just as Trinity College would lose. It was impossible to give the absolute figures as to the number of such cases, but it was undoubtedly true that there were a considerable number of proprietors in the same position as Trinity College. Yet there was to be no provision made for dealing with them; and Trinity College was to be specially selected to receive this compensation. As to the source, the Irish Development Grant would provide the money. Did anyone ever hear such a satire? That fund, which was entirely an Irish Development Fund, was to be drawn upon for the purpose of giving £5,000 a year as compensation to Trinity College. What was that fund? It was a sum of money which was Ireland's equivalent for the education grant given It England under the Act of last year. oreland was entitled, as a matter of right, to a sum of about £185,000 a year as the equivalent to the English education grant; which meant that it was to be devoted generally to education in Ireland. Under this Bill the right hon. Gentleman was suspending the application of any portion of the grant for educational purposes in Ireland. He was drawing temporarily in one respect, and permanently in another respect, on that fund for the purpose of facilitating land purchase. But he now proposed to devote £5,000 a year from that fund to Trinity College for ever. That was to say, that, while he did not propose to devote a single farthing to general educational purposes in Ireland, he picked out a State endowed educational establishment, the richest in the country, one against which, personally, he did not desire to say anything, but against which there was undoubtedly a strong feeling in the country among all classes of the population, and proposed to devote this sum permanently to it. If he had spent the last two years in trying to find out what was the most contentious subject which he could introduce he could not possibly have succeeded better than by selecting this subject. It was one of the most contentious questions that could be raised. Every question connected with education in Ireland was raised by it. The Catholic University question was raised by it; and it was impossible to conceive any course that could be taken by the right hon. Gentleman that would be more certain to lead to excitement of feeling, bitterness, and prolonged discussions and he was afraid acrimonious discussion—both in this House and out of it. He deeply regretted the right hon. Gentleman had introduced this proposal. It would have been bad enough if he had put a clause in the Bill as originally drafted in order that they might be able to deal with it on the Second Reading. But to spring the question on the Committee in the middle of July, without consulting a single Irish Member, was a course which, in his opinion, was quite unjustifiable and one which he was intensely surprised the right hon. Gentleman had taken. He would at once admit that the right hon. Gentleman throughout the conduct of the Bill had shown a conciliatory spirit. He knew the right hon. Gentleman's difficulties perfectly well; and he knew how he was hemmed in and fettered. On the whole, he thought the right hon. Gentleman had exhibited a conciliatory spirit, and the greatest skill in the management of the Bill. But he confessed that in this matter the right hon. Gentleman entirely belied his record. He could not conceive a more fatal thing than, at the last moment, to throw down this bone of contention; and he felt sure that the view he had expressed was entertained strongly by every Member in that quarter of the House. He was afraid that if the right hon. Gentleman persisted in his proposal he would have to make up his mind to very considerable opposition, the very greatest dissatisfaction, and the very gravest acrimonious discussion in Ireland. He begged the right hon.

Gentleman to reconsider the matter. As for himself, he wished to enter his protest against the clause, and would offer it the most vigorous opposition.

MR. T. M. HEALY said as he understood it, this was a proposal to preserve Trinity College and therefore proceeded on the lines of the Land Conference Report signed by the hon. Member for Waterford. On Second Reading he was urged by a large number of the Trinity College tenants to bring forward their case, which they regarded as a hopeless one under this Bill. He knew how the two law officers would resist any attack on Trinity College, and he had deliberately abstained from raising the question of Trinity College. He disliked this clause as much as did the hon. Member for Waterford, but were the Irish Members prepared to tell the 10,000 men who sat as tenants of Trinity College, they were to be denied relief, and that they would have no chance of becoming proprietors because of the tangle into which Trinity tenures had got. This was a "take it or leave it" clause, because he was certain that if it was opposed the Chief Secretary would drop it at once, and that was the alternative in which they were placed. They would either be misrepresented as having agreed to give Trinity College £5,000 a year or they must be prepared to stand by and see 10,000 tenants sacrificed. When he yesterday saw the clause for the first time he was startled, because it seemed to be an irony of fate that this development grant, which was the equivalent grant to which Ireland was entitled in respect of the grant for education, should go not to the unfortunate national schools of the country but should go in relief of the one exclusive university in the country which had distinguished itself in the late election by pledging the Solicitor-General to oppose anything in the nature of a Catholic University. He did the hon. Gentleman the justice to say that he adopted a different attitude in the matter. He rose for the purpose of making a suggestion to the right hon. Gentleman. The right hon. Gentleman would never get this clause with the goodwill of the Nationalist Party, and if they voted against it they would be in the position of cutting off their nose to spite their face, because they would prevent the tenants of Trinity College becoming proprietors. Could not they appoint a small Commission to inquire into what rentals Trinity College got and what the middle landlords got from the tenants; to inquire into all the tenures which affected the right or probability of the tenants becoming proprietors of their holdings, and enter into the whole question with a well informed mind next session. He did not believe the clause itself was sufficiently drastic to carry out the object of the Government; it would not, he believed, work if passed into law, because in his view the middle landlords would not sell the holdings. His suggestion, therefore, was that the right hon. Gentleman should appoint a small Commission with power to report, and whose report when published should be binding on the Estates Commissioners, and that the whole of this matter should then be left to the Estate Commissioners to deal with.

*MR. T. W. RUSSELL said he had always held that two classes would be hit by this Land Bill, the first of which was Trinity College. The position of Trinity College was not that which the hon. Member for Louth supposed. The landlords of these holdings according to the Land Conference were the middle landlords to whom Trinity College leased these lands years ago, and it must be remembered that under the Bill the middle landlord could sell. Every Land Act had passed over Trinity College without touching it, but from what he had heard the middle men were in such a bad way they would gladly go out with the bonus. He had no desire to say a word againstT rinity College, but his point was that this was a part of the educational settlement of Ireland, and if the Government were proposing to come to the relief of Trinity College in this way, at this time they might depend upon it that before next session they would have appeals, which they could not withstand, from the Irish Church Representative Body, the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church and Maynooth College. They would say—"You compensated Trinity College under this Act and you must also give us a grant to make our losses up." He was prepared to vote for this grant to Trinity College as part of an educational settlement, but only as a part of the settlement and not as a grant in aid.

Mr. DILLON said he could only repeat the question put by the hon. Member for Waterford—Why had the Government introduced so contentious a matter in this Bill at so short a notice? Over and over again they had been appealed to by the Chief Secretary to withdraw Amendments because of the danger of introducing controversial matter, and even on the question of Irish labourers, which had been brought to the attention of the Government at the earliest stage of this Bill, the right hon. Gentleman had appealed to them to drop the subject because it was too late in the session to take up so difficult a question. Within a few moments of that appeal the right hon. Gentleman himself came forward with a clause raising the whole question of Irish education—one of the most contentious and troublesome matters that could be conceived. But even supposing it were granted that the position of the tenants of Trinity College ought to be dealt with in some special way, why could not the right hon. Gentleman deal with it in a separate Bill next session, as he proposed to deal with the labourers' question? Did he contend that the grievance of the tenants of Trinity College was more pressing than that of the Irish labourers? This most contentious and objectionable clause would be opposed now, on the Report stage and on the Third Reading; and yet, although so much time was to be spent in the discussions therein involved, there was no time to settle the labourers' question, in reference to which there was practically no difference of opinion whatever. Was it to be understood that the question of the labourers and their grievance was shunted in order to make way for this extraordinary proposal? It was idle to say that Trinity College was in a special and peculiar position. There was hardly a charitable institution in Ireland, not to speak of Maynooth College and the Church Body, which was not in a similar position. In all Irish land legislation the owners of superior interests had been treated somewhat summarily. Since 1881 it had been the practice to give the owner of the middle interest the right to expropriate or buy out the owner of the superior interest at a very moderate figure. That was exactly the fate which had now overtaken Trinity College, but it was proposed to treat them exceptionally, and do them a special favour. It was all very well to make fine-drawn distinctions between the losses which would be inflicted by this land legislation on Trinity College and Maynooth which stood to lose heavily. If this proposal were carried, on what ground would the Government resist the claim which would undoubtedly be made by the trustees of Maynooth next year to be put on an equality with Trinity College?

Never in the history of the House of Commons had a proposal so far-reaching in its effect been brought forward in so frivolous a manner as this. It was a serious matter to attempt to draw a distinction between the losses inflicted by this legislation on public institutions which had mortgages, and those inflicted on the owners of superior interests. In the past no such distinction had been drawn; both classes had suffered more or less by land legislation, but no claim had been made for compensation to either. This proposal was, in reality, under the cloak of the Land Bill, and in a manner which was exceedingly mean, an attempt to grab for Trinity College a perpetual endowment of £5,000 a year, it being expected that for fear of risking the Bill the Irish representatives would abstain from opposing it on its merits. It was an outrageous attempt to force down the throats of the Irish people a proposal for which the right hon. Gentleman would be unable to get half-a-dozen Irish Members to vote if it were put on its merits in a separate Bill. He strongly appealed to the Chief Secretary to postpone so contentious a matter. In the meantime information could be gathered as to the bearing of this clause, and the House could be informed as to the special difficulties of Trinity College, of the true nature of the facts. The right hon. Gentleman had declared it would take fifteen years to carry out this work of settlement. Suppose it took ten years, would it be any tremendous grievance to Trinity College, even if this difficulty really existed, to wait until next year? The proposal was absolutely contrary to the traditions and practice of the House of Commons, and if persevered with might lead to the grossest possible abuse. For the House to tolerate, at the end of a great measure of 82 clauses, the introduction, practically without notice, of a proposal of this character, by which a public body would be endowed with a large annual sum, without the general public having any knowledge of the fact, was an outrageous innovation. Moreover, it was not fair to many Members of the House. The official opposition, having adopted a certain attitude towards the Bill, were absent, having been under the impression that they had before them all the important financial proposals of the Bill. He contended that fuller notice ought to have been given, so that Members could have made arrangements to be present if necessary. On purely financial grounds it was a thoroughly objectionable and vicious proposal.

A further consideration was the effect it would have on Irish opinion with regard to the whole policy of the development grant. Personally, he had always felt great uneasiness in reference to that policy. This policy of taking money and leaving it at the disposal of the Executive Government was a policy which would lead to corruption and jobbery unless closely watched, because it was a policy of withdrawal from all the elaborate financial precautions of the House of Commons. If it had not been for the existence of the Irish development grant the Chief Secretary would not have made such a proposal, but would have had to put this charge upon the Estimates. It would have been impossible, under the ordinary procedure of Parliament, to defeat all Parliamentary precautions, and evade that criticism which was necessary in all financial proposals. In his opinion this proposal was disorderly, and it most certainly was a gross innovation of the practice of the House of Commons. Even if it were not disorderly it was a warning to those who wished business conducted in accordance with the practice of the House. This proposal was opposed by the solid opposition of representatives from Ireland who sat upon the Nationalist Benches. He considered this was a most unfortunate element to introduce into these discussions. This proposal was certain to create bitterness, and there was no urgency for introducing such a clause this session, more especially when the Chief Secretary had asked them to postpone the labourers question. The honest way to deal with the matter was to bring in a separate Bill, and then the Chief Secretary could state the grounds on which he proposed to deal with Trinity College separately from any individual or other corporation in Ireland which would lose under this Act. The right hon. Gentleman would do very little service to the promotion of good feeling or to the reception which this Bill would receive in Ireland if he persisted in this proposal. He wished to know if it was in order to introduce a clause seeking to appropriate a perpetual endowment to a particular corporation in Ireland from a fund which had not been appropriated by the House of Commons.

*THE CHAIRMAN: The hon. Member will no doubt recollect that the House of Commons had already passed a Resolution setting up the Irish development grant. The House has already agreed to that, and therefore it is in order to move that any of that money shall be applied to certain purposes.

MR. T. W. RUSSELL pointed out that Clause 35 provided that—

> "If by any Act passed in the present session provision is made for an Ireland development grant the following provisions shall have effect."

Those provisions only came into effect if Parliament this session made provision for an Irish development grant.

*THE CHAIRMAN: If the Irish Development Grant Bill does not go through then this proposal obviously falls.

MR. DILLON said it might be held that by passing a clause appropriating a portion of that grant they were interfering with the discretion of the House in setting up the rules and regulations under which that grant might be appropriated.

*The CHAIRMAN: Of course it will be necessary, in dealing with the Irish Development Grant Bill to bear in mind that an appropriation to the amount of £5,000 has already taken place. Possibly this Irish Development Grant Bill which I have in my hand may require a proviso inserted to that effect. I do not think, from the point of view of order, that it is disorderly to allocate a portion of a grant which the House has already agreed to by Resolution, although it has not actually passed the Bill.

Mr. SWIFT MACNEILL (Donegal, S.) contended that the provision of £5,000 for a special purpose not directly connected with land could not be introduced according to the Resolution which the House had adopted. His proposition was that this special allocation of £5,000 was not within the terms of that Resolution. Amendments coming from the opposite side of the House which dealt with the allocation of sums which did not actually come within the terms of the Resolution had been excluded. This grant was for a sum of money not included within the purview of the Bill itself, and it contravened the usages and practices of the House of Commons. He submitted that there was no precedent whatever for proposing a grant which could not by any construction be brought within the main purposes for which the money Resolution of this Bill was passed.

*The CHAIRMAN: The hon. Member has apparently forgotten Clause 35 of this Bill.

Mr. SWIFT MACNEILL: No, Sir, I have not.

*The CHAIRMAN: If the hon. Member will refresh his memory he will see that £20,000 has already been appropriated for one purpose, namely, the Congested Districts Board. Surely the Committee can appropriate further sums for another purpose.

Mr. SWIFT MACNEILL said his point was that this proposal could not be introduced because it did not come within the purview of the Resolution on which this Bill was founded.

*The CHAIRMAN: Nor does Clause 35, which has already allocated portions of the money to certain other objects.

Mr. DILLON said that whereas Clause 35 took a portion of the Irish development grant for land purchase in Ireland it was now proposed to take a portion for a purpose which was not within the four corners of the Resolution upon which this Bill rested. Therefore, this proposal had no reference to Clause 35.

* The CHAIRMAN: It is covered by the Resolution of the House, and I think that is sufficient.

Mr. BLAKE (Longford, S.): Then there is no necessity for a money Resolution at all?

* The CHAIRMAN: If there had been no money Resolution there would have been no advances at all, because they would not have been covered by the Irish development grant.

The SOLICITOR-GENERAL for IRELAND (Mr. James Campbell, Dublin University) said his only object in rising was for the purpose of explaining the legal position of Trinity College in this matter. He thought it would assist the Committee when it was understood that some such provision as this was absolutely essential in the interests of ordinary justice and fair play. When the legal position was understood it would be at once seen that there was no analogy whatever between the case of Trinity College and the other cases referred to by the hon. Member for Mayo and by the hon. Member for South Tyrone. Trinity College was established under statute, and it could not depart one hair's breadth outside the powers and restrictions conferred upon it by statute. So far back as the reign of Charles I. Trinity College was granted power to make leases upon its landed estates, and those leases were to be of two kinds. In the case of agricultural land the lease could not be longer than for a term of twenty years. In the case of towns that period was extended to forty years. The statute provided that in granting such leases it should be a condition that the rent fixed should be at least a half of the full value of the agricultural land. The matter became very burdensome to the College tenants and lessees, and they made frequent complaints on the subject, and the result was that Trinity College, exceeding its powers under the Act of Charles, proceeded to renew the leases to those tenants at much below the figure representing a half of the full value. That was done for the relief of the tenants, and it required a subsequent Act of Parliament in the thirty-fifth year of the reign of George III. to relieve Trinity College from that breach of trust, and to confirm and sanction the leases made at reduced rents. But still there was no perpetuity. Leases could not be longer than twenty years, and the College tenants began to complain bitterly of having no perpetuity on their estates, and having, therefore, no encouragement to spend money in improving them. In 1851 an Act was passed to regulate the relations between Trinity College and the lessees. The principal object of that Act was to bring relief to the lessees, and to accede to their request to have their tenure changed from terminable lease into perpetuity. That Act went on to provide that Trinity College should be at liberty to give leases for a period not longer than ninety-nine years, provided the rent was not less than three-fourths of the annual value of the land, but it also gave an alternative right to the lessees to demand a lease and grant in perpetuity, and that grant in perpetuity was to be subject to a rent fixed upon a basis having reference to the price of certain standard commodities. Inasmuch as these lessees were middlemen and had been, in recent years, making complaint as to the operation of the Act in regard to themselves, it was only right that he should mention that before the Act became law representatives of the lessees waited upon the Board of Trinity College, and certain suggestions were accepted by the lessees as a basis for the ascertainment of the perpetuity rents. The Committee might take it from him that that basis was afterwards inserted in the Act of Parliament which now regulated the relations between the middlemen and Trinity College. The College had only received the rents agreed upon—nothing more and nothing less.

But what was the position of the middlemen? Did anyone know, or would they ever be told, what rents they exacted from the occupying tenants during the long period from 1851 to 1881? He mentioned this because the whole matter had arisen owing to it being suggested that those middlemen under the operation of the Act of 1881 were placed in an unfortunate position. He admitted it, but that had been through no act of Trinity College. The College had never exacted a farthing from the lessees in excess of what it was empowered to charge by the Act of 1851 as the result of a deliberate bargain between the College and the trustees.

*MR. LONSDALE (Armagh, Mid.): They increased the rents.

MR. JAMES CAMPBELL said that observation showed that the hon. Member did not appreciate the legal position. Trinity College had increased the rents, but under what circumstances? It was agreed that the rents should be subject to decrease or increase according as the prices of certain standard commodities went up or down. That was the bargain, and to give the Committee an idea of the rents fixed under the Act of 1851 he would state what were the five articles. It was important to understand this for the purpose of seeing that the position of Trinity College was wholly different from that of any of the other bodies having lands to lease. The Irish Church Body and St. Stephen's Hospital were not controlled in the management of their estates by Parliament, but as the funds of Trinity College were devoted to the purposes of public education, Parliament exercised the right of controlling the administration of the funds. The five articles selected were wheat, oats, beef, mutton, and butter. The prices in 1851, immediately after the famine, were probably lower than they had ever been before, or since. He would give the exact figures, the comparison being between prices in 1851 and now. Wheat in that year was 8s. 4d against 6s. 5d. oats, 5s. 6d. against 5s. 9d; beef, 41s against 55s.; mutton, 47s. against 60s; and butter, 64s. against 99s. [An HON. MEMBER: Where?] These were the average prices for Ireland. He was not speaking of any particular district. Had prices gone down, so far from Trinity College being able to get an increased rent they would have got a decrease. Trinity College was in no way responsible for the grievances of the occupying tenants; but the middlemen—the lessees of Trinity College—so far from having any cause of complaint against Trinity College, whatever complaint they might have against Parliament for legislation subsequent to 1881, must admit that Trinity College had kept honourably, faithfully, and rigorously to the bargain that was made at the request of those gentlemen themselves. There had, however, been no check upon them up to 1881 as to the rents they received from the occupying tenants from year to year. They were at the mercy of the middleman. He doubted whether we should ever be told what rents the middlemen obtained from the occuping tenants between 1851 and 1881. [A NATIONALIST MEMBER: All they could get out of them.] That being so, what was their grievance? It was that while they could not take the benefit of the Act of 1881, the tenants from year to year under them could; and that as the result of the reductions of rents to the occupying tenants they had not made so profitable a bargain as they had made in 1851, when they got that agreement into an Act. But how was that any justification for imposing any loss or burden on Trinity College? Trinity College had adhered to that agreement rigorously throughout, and their case in that regard for relief was in no way better or worse than that of any middleman who, having effected encumbrances, or created charges, or granted annuities, found that the rent on which he had made these encumbrances had been cut down.

Now, that was the legal position of Trinity College. And what was the remedy proposed? The question had been dealt with in debate as if this was a grant of an extra endowment of £5,000 a year for Trinity College. That was a ludicrous misrepresentation. Not one shilling of this money would ever be paid to Trinity College unless and until there was a loss on the existing income. So far from there being an additional revenue, it was only an insurance on its present revenue, and this present revenue was devoted to national education in Ireland. [Cries of "Class Education" and "Sectarian Education," from the Irish benches.] He did not want to go into that question. [Cries from the Irish benches of "That is the question."] He did not want to go into the different forms of education in Ireland, but he might say that, at the present hour, any person in Ireland, without distinction of creed or class was eligible to the highest or lowest mark of honour which Trinity College could give. He quite agreed that there were other considerations that influenced large numbers of his fellow-countrymen, and which prevented them from availing themselves of the advantages of the education offered by Trinity College. It might be said that the system under which these funds were administered might be changed, but why should not the funds be kept intact? It was not suggested that the governing body of Trinity College were going to make away with these funds. They would be there for the use of the nation, preserved as trust money. Of course, if Parliament chose to interpose and alter their destination or alter the governing body of Trinity College on a new system that would not interfere with the funds. They would be available for Parliament to deal with in its wisdom. He wanted to get rid of the idea that this was an addition of even one shilling to the revenue of Trinity College. The object of the clause was to facilitate the working of the Bill when it passed into law. Trinity College was a head landlord, but it was also a direct landlord of a substantial portion of land all over Ireland; and this provision would have no application to that land.

MR. FLAVIN: And a pretty strict landlord too.

MR. JAMES CAMPBELL: But this clause had no application to Trinity College in its dealings with tenants where it was the direct landlord. What was the position? £36,000 a year was the income of Trinity College from head-rents. That formed a substantial portion of the money with which it had to carry on the work of education in Ireland. Imagine to what extent Trinity College would be crippled if, at a time when every educational institution was putting forth a demand for more money for the purposes of scientific and technical instruction, they passed into law a Bill which would be a social revolution in Ireland—as they all hoped, on the lines of prosperity and improvement — on lines of the most liberal character—liberal in money and liberal in many respects not contained in the original Bill and which many Members on that side of the House had reluctantly yielded to, only in the expectation that the Bill would bring peace and prosperity to all Ireland—and which was going to hamper the operations of the University of which, he ventured to say, every Irishman was proud, and which not an Irishman would allow a word to be said against. In a measure of this kind, the object and purport of which was to bring an opportunity for social, educational, and economical reformation to Ireland, were they going to say that its operation would be of such a character as to cripple the resources of the principal educational establishment in Ireland, and one which had hosts of friends, not only in this country and in Scotland, but in every corner of the British Empire? In conclusion, he wished to say that while Trinity College was drawing this revenue of £36,000 in the shape of head-rents, that represented to them a very small number of tenants indeed — not exceeding 100. But it affected possibly 9,000 occupying tenants. It must be borne in mind that the head-rent ran the whole way down till it reached the land itself. What was really required was that Trinity College should sustain no loss, not that she should gain anything; and it should be remembered that in making this provision they were doing something not merely in the interests of education in Ireland, but in enabling the advantages of the Bill to be granted to 9,000 occupying holders.

MR. T. P. O'CONNOR (Liverpool, Scotland) said that the hon. and learned Gentleman had no reason whatever for making any apology for the speech which he had just delivered. It was a very able, interesting, and lucid exposition of a somewhat tangled series of facts. But to him the speech was not merely interesting as a revelation of the personal and political courage of the hon. and learned Gentleman; it was almost a surprise. The hon. and learned Gentleman stood up, and, in accents of alluring calmness and peace, asked hon. Members on the Irish benches, who represented a vast majority of the people of Ireland deprived of the advantages of a University education, to assist the most exclusive University, perhaps, in the world, to get an endowment from this House at the tail end of the Bill, and at the tail end of the session. But in the course of his exposition the hon. and learned Gentleman forgot to remind the Committee that he came here a few weeks ago from that same University pledged to maintain its exclusive privileges and to the exclusion of the majority of the people of Ireland from its benefits. The hon. and learned Gentleman asked them to put aside that part of the question from survey. They declined to do so. To them it was the kernel of the whole business. He agreed with the hon. Member for South Tyrone that if the proposal before the Committee had been for a generous system of education—a really national system of education in Ireland—and if Trinity College were really national, nobody would have raised any objection to an addition of £5,000 a year, or even more, to its revenue. But when the proposal was to again endow—for that was the real fact—an exclusive University, and when that was done not by direct, straightforward proposal, but by a sudden proposal almost irrelevant to the purposes of the Bill, at the last hour, to keep up the exclusiveness of the University, it was bound to receive the most serious and determined opposition from Members from all parts of Ireland. The hon. and learned Gentleman elaborated the point that this was not endowment or re-endowment. No, it was an insurance against loss by legislation! He never felt the absence of the right hon. Gentleman the Member for the Sleaford Division more than he did at that moment. If the right hon. Gentleman asked for £5,000 to save the landed interest from loss resulting from free trade, would anyone say it was not an endowment? Was not insurance against loss, which was a necessary consequence of necessary legislation, an endowment? It was playing with words to speak of this proposal as not being an endowment. Suppose it was proposed that every holder of superior interests in Ireland should be saved from loss, would not that be an endowment? and would not hon. Gentlemen opposite, who had anything like popular principles, denounce it as a new endowment of the landed class? Would not the right hon. Gentleman the Member for North Armagh think he had lived to see an extraordinary day when it was proposed to give back to his class the money they had lost through legislation? He thought the right hon. Gentleman would envy Trinity College; and that with even his own opulent vocabulary he would envy the still more opulent vocabulary of the Solicitor-General for Ireland who said that an insurance against loss by legislation was not an endowment.

The third point was that this was for the benefit of education. The right hon. and learned Gentleman gave a glowing account of the desirability of higher education in Ireland; but he might have spared himself the trouble of passing those eulogiums, because they were all in favour of higher education. There was a sum of nearly £190,000 which Ireland had earned for education; and according to the right hon. and learned Gentleman the object of this fund was not to promote the elementary, popular and free education of the people of Ireland, but that it should be given to an exclusive and rich University. That was what the right hon. and learned Gentleman called encouraging education. The money was to be filched from the masses of the people, and given to the intolerant University of the minority of the people. The right hon. and learned Gentleman might think that he was using a harsh word when he called Trinity College an intolerant University. What was the right hon. and learned Gentleman's reply? Speaking from the bench from which they had often heard the Prime Minister speaking on the Irish University question and Trinity College, the right hon. and learned Gentleman declared that Trinity College was a tolerant and national University, and that observation was cheered by hon. Gentlemen sitting near him. The right hon. and learned Gentleman said that all its endowments were open to men of all creeds. That was the language of the subordinate of the Prime Minister, who had done more to extirpate that miserable and mendacious fallacy than any other man in the kingdom, by speeches in which he declared, over and over again, that although all the endowments of Trinity College were nominally open to Catholics, its atmosphere was so exclusively Protestant that no self-respecting Catholic parent would send his son to it.

What was the fourth defence? It was that Trinity College was in a different position from other bodies, because its relations with its tenants were regulated by statutes. They had heard that this statute did this, and that the other statute did that, and that such-and-such an agreement was embodied in an Act of Parliament. What inference did he draw from that? It was that another Act of Parliament was the proper way of dealing with this question; not a subordinate clause sprung on the House of Commons at the tail end of the session. He would prove to the satisfaction of every hon. Member that in order to carry out the proposal of the right. hon. Gentleman an Act of Parliament was necessary. The only real defence which had been made for this clause was that suggested by the hon. and learned Member for North Louth. He said that unless this money were given to Trinity College the tenants would not be able to buy their holdings. He himself admitted there was force in that; but there again an Act of Parliament was required. He challenged the Chief Secretary to show that this clause would effect the object he had in view. The process would be this. The middleman and the tenant would negotiate, the middleman would get as an inducement to sell a number of years purchase, and the bonus. He then had to pay Trinity College. But how was Trinity College going to deal with the matter? The right hon. Gentleman proposed to give Trinity College £5,000 to make up its loss. But what compulsion was there on Trinity College by this clause to make such an allowance to the middleman as would induce the middleman to sell? Direct provision would have to be made for that, and it could not be made in a single clause; it would require an Act to itself. But even if the right hon. Gentleman were to answer him satisfactorily on that point, his objection—an objection which was shared by every hon. Member on the Irish benches, and by some hon. Gentlemen opposite—would remain as it was. The clause was in his opinion anticipating, and unfairly anticipating, the settlement of the University question. They felt very strongly on that question. They had been urging the claims of their co-religionists in this matter for nearly half-a-century. Measure after measure had been proposed in this House for dealing with that grievance, and popular opinion in Ireland—not only on the part of the Catholics, but also on the part of tolerant Protestants—was unanimous as to its removal. The Prime Minister had admitted the existence of the grievance, and had asked that it should be removed; but it still remained unredressed. A Ministry, many Members of which were pledged to the principle of dealing with this question, was in office for several years, and it still remained unredressed, and after those long years of patient and weary waiting for the redress of the University question, Trinity College—a rival and exclusive University—was able to put a blunderbuss to their heads and demand a new endowment in addition to its already large revenues.

MR. WYNDHAM said that some of the speakers who had taken part in the debate said that in making his proposal he had avoided details, and had placed a somewhat scanty defence before the Committee. His defence for having avoided details was that he knew his right hon. and learned friend the Solicitor-General was prepared to deal with the details of the question; and hon. Members who had heard his right hon. and learned friend's speech would agree that he was right in leaving the matter to him, and not taking it into his own more clumsy hands. The defence of this proposal was to be found in the speech of the Solicitor-General. Any hon. Member who had listened to that speech would agree with the Government that the Trinity College question was a unique question, and a very complicated question; and that it did constitute a bar to purchase in areas which were scattered here and there over the whole of Ireland. The hon. Member who had just spoken went into the distribution of the purchase money, and said that on the face of the Bill the middleman could sell without consulting Trinity College. That was not an overstatement of the case; but there was sometimes not only one but two, and in some cases three, middlemen intervening between the occupier of the soil and the superior interests of Trinity College. In the complicated task of ascertaining the value of these interests and of redeeming the superior interest, if it were not law it was human nature and sure prophecy to say that the fact that the business could be carried through would be an element of very potent and very beneficial effect. The middleman would not sell if he believed that after the sale he would get nothing but the bonus. Therefore, without following the argument of the hon. Gentleman at too great a length, he might say that the fact of putting sufficient in the general pool to leave the middleman something more than the bonus was a rough-and-ready, but, as far as it went, a practical help towards the solution of this difficult problem. Would it go far enough? He was not now speaking of money alone. He was very much struck by the suggestion of the hon. and learned Member for North Louth, with part of which he was disposed to concur. The hon. and learned Member asked them to substitute for this provision a separate and close investigation into the whole of the difficult questions of Trinity College head-rents and intervening interests. He could not accept that as a substitute; but he thought it would be well worth while for the Government to consider it as an addition. He feared that in respect of Trinity College and its head-rents and intervening interest they would find the progress of land purchase delayed, and that would have the effect of disappointing the hopes which the Bill had raised. The result, as far as the occupier of the soil was concerned, would be accidental and adventitious. It was not his fault that he held under a lessee of Trinity College. They would have purchase going gaily forward on one side of the hedge and impossible on the other side.

The hon. Gentleman for East Mayo asked why he was not prepared to deal with this problem in another session; and the hon. Gentleman followed that up by instituting a comparison between these 9,000 or 10,000 occupiers who held under lessees of Trinity College and the labourers of Ireland. If he could look at it from the abstract, he would be prepared to say that legislation that would give great satisfaction to the whole of the labourers of Ireland would be more important than legislation giving the advantage of purchase 9,000 tenants. But how could he look at it in the abstract? These 9,000 tenants were 9,000 out of all the occupying tenants in Ireland; and as this was a Bill to give the occupying tenants an opportunity of becoming the owners of their holdings he had to look at the 9,000 in relation to the balance of 490,000 tenants, and not in relation to the labourers of Ireland, whose wants he would consider in the ensuing months when the labours of this Bill were completed. He had been asked, "Why introduce a question of this magnitude so late in the session?"

Mr. T. M. HEALY: And at such short notice.

Mr. WYNDHAM said that he feared it would be difficult to give an answer which would be satisfactory to hon. Gentlemen opposite; but there had been an accommodating process going on, on parallel lines, involving a good many negotiations among those interested in the Bill. He was not saying that they had done all that they might have done, but every one had distinguished himself by a spirit of co-operation in dealing with questions more difficult than this one. Take the evicted tenants question. He should not dwell upon that, but many Members on his side of the House had co-operated to the best of their power to arrive at a satisfactory agreement on that question. There remained a number of other questions, which remained in what he might call a state of suspended animation, and why should there be no set-off? The settlement of this matter had only been arrived at on Tuesday morning, and it was only one of a number of questions as to which he had been approached. As this was a Bill which was to carry goodwill to Ireland, he thought they ought not to allow this matter, touching a great institution of which all Irishmen were proud, to remain open, or to endanger its primary duty, that of educating the youth of the country.

Mr. CLANCY said the right hon. Gentleman had said that the defence of the Government proposal was to be found in the speech of the Solicitor-General for Ireland, but so far as he heard it the speech of the Gentleman was quite irrelevant to the issue before the Committee. The Solicitor-General dealt in his speech not with the question before the Committee but with the totally different question raised on the new clause in the name of the hon. Member for Mid Armagh. The hon. and learned Gentleman discussed the relations between Trinity College and its middlemen, which had nothing to do with the question before the Committee. Whether the rents should be varied or not had no relation to the question of whether Trinity College should be reimbursed out of the equivalent grant, so that the defence of the hon. and learned Gentleman was no defence at all. The question was whether Trinity College on selling its superior interests ought to obtain out of an Irish Imperial fund £5,000 a year for ever; and the only ground upon which such a suggestion could be defended was that Trinity College occupied a unique position. But where was the difference between the position of Trinity College and all the other landowners of Ireland who only had a superior interest? The only difference that he could see was that in some cases Trinity College had acted under statute, and that the other owners had exercised their rights to agree with their tenants. That was the only difference It was said that Trinity

College had middlemen under them, but there were hundreds of owners in Ireland in the same position whose superior interests were as well safeguarded as those of Trinity College; and that being so it was a most extraordinary thing that the Government should come at any time, but especially at a time like this, and pick out a single landlord for the purpose of making good to him the losses he might incur under this Bill by compulsory sale. Because Trinity College could be compulsorily relieved, and the price to be paid for its superior interests had to be determined by the Land Commission. In every county of every province in Ireland he could pick out dozens of landlords who had middlemen under them, and in their case the lowest middleman could sell to the tenants and every man above him could be redeemed against his will, but it was not suggested that all those landlords should be relieved. The Government proposed to compensate no one but Trinity College, the one landlord who in some respects had rendered itself most hated by the majority of the people of Ireland. But assuming that Trinity College ought to be compensated, the object of this Bill was a great Imperial object; its object was to pacify Ireland, to establish peace and settle the long-standing quarrel between landlord and tenant, and for that purpose Parliament was about to sanction a loan of £100,000,000 and a grant of £12,000,000, and if Trinity College was to be compensated surely the money required for effecting that object ought to be obtained out of an Imperial fund also. This grant of £5,000 a year was to be made not merely for fifteen years but for ever. How much could not that sum have done for the congested districts in the West of Ireland, or for all those poor localities which required piers and harbours, but were unable to provide the necessary money out of local sources? Instead of being so used, it was to be devoted to the endowment of an already rich University, which had certainly been too much favoured in the past, to the injury of the interests of the rest of Ireland.

He was really astonished to hear the old story repeated about Trinity College being open to Catholics It was open to them in exactly the same sense as the Protestant churches were in the time of Cromwell. Trinity College did not satisfy Catholics, and it was to this institution, when other educational institutions were starved for lack of assistance, that a sum was to be given at the rate of £5,000 a year. The Chief Secretary had seemed to imply that a portion of the money would be pooled in order to filter into the pockets of the middlemen, who would thereby be induced to sell to their under-tenants. He did not think that would be the case. The £5,000 would be kept for Trinity College alone, to compensate it for any loss that might be incurred in the redemption of its superior interests. Not a penny would go into the pockets of the middlemen for the purpose of facilitating land purchase It was also urged that certain compensations were being given, the reference being to the ridiculous question of the reversions of the Crown. Those reversions were worth very little, and even that little had to be paid for, as there was no provision in the Bill, except in the case of an interest which had practically disappeared, for relieving the Irish tenant in the last resort from paying for these reversions. But even if the reverse were the case, it was no defence for this proposal.

MR. BUTCHER said that if the estates, of which Trinity College was head landlord, were to be sold, Trinity College would undoubtedly suffer a considerable loss—a loss which had been put as high as £9,000 a year—and the question was whether the Committee were prepared to allow such a great educational institution to suffer that loss through the operation of a Bill from which so much good was expected. He believed that every friend of higher education in England and Ireland would deplore any result which either paralysed the activity or in any way diminished the energies of that great institution. He regretted the hon. Member for the Scotland Division had seen fit to attempt to divert the discussion to the irrelevant question of the religious controversies in connection with Irish education. He would certainly not follow his example, and he was sorry the hon. Member had struck a jarring note which hitherto had been conspicuously absent from the discussion. Trinity College deserved all the Committee could do for it. It had an illustrious history of which every Irishman was proud. It was almost the one institution founded in Ireland by England which had had such continuous success. For three centuries past Trinity College had been the home of literature, art, and science, and had produced many of the most illustrious men of the time. Had not such an institution a special right to claim the intervention of the Committee to save it from loss consequent upon the working of this Bill? It had been said that Trinity College had no more claim to be indemnified again loss than a private owner of superior interests. Surely the case of a great educational body, whose income was derived almost exclusively from land, was entirely different from that of a private individual? The Committee had been asked why Trinity College should be compensated, and Maynooth not. What would Maynooth receive under this Bill? Maynooth, and other institutions holding mortgages, would receive in full their mortgage money and all the interest. [Several IRISH MEMBERS: But not their income.]

COLONEL NOLAN (Galway, N.): Indemnify Maynooth, and we can settle the question.

MR. BUTCHER thought there was hardly a place out of Ireland where a mortgagee would complain if he was repaid his money with interest in full. In view of the fact that Trinity College was a great educational institution and would suffer loss by the operation of the Bill, he held it was only right that provision should be made against its educational work being impaired through that loss. The only question was whether or not the money should come out of this particular fund. He did not deny that in some respects it would have been better if some other fund could have been drawn upon. But there was no other fund available, and that being so, he should certainly heartily support the clause.

COLONEL NOLAN said that it had been estimated that Trinity College might lose about £5,000 a year under this Bill. It should not be forgotten that there was another college called Maynooth College. Trinity College educated the Protestant Church and Maynooth College the Catholic Church. It had been estimated that Maynooth College was going to lose £3,000 a year. That was the whole question. [NATIONALIST cries of "No, no."] He believed that was at the bottom of the whole of this debate. [A NATIONALIST MEMBER: Not at all, it never was mentioned.] That was his opinion at any rate. The Government were taking care of Trinity College but were taking no care of Maynooth College, which was placed practically in the same boat by this Bill. If this proposal were extended to Maynooth College he should be quite willing to vote for the Chief Secretary's proposal.

MR. BOLAND (Kerry, S.) said there was no proposal in the Bill to make either Trinity College or any other college sell its land, and they were giving this money to Trinity College without any compulsion to sell. Out of money due to primary education for the great majority of the Catholic children of Ireland they were going to devote £5,000 to maintain an utterly un-national University in Ireland in its present position, and this would prevent the possibility of the education question in Ireland being regarded upon fair grounds in the future. It would be to the advantage of Trinity College to have no sales at all, but allow this £5,000 a year to accumulate indefinitely, and he believed this clause would have an absolutely opposite effect to that which was intended.

MR. POWER (Waterford, E.) said that after the speech of the Chief Secretary he had come to the conclusion that the Nationalist Members had been treated most unfairly upon this matter. The object of this Bill was to promote the transfer of land from the landlords to the occupiers, and in that object all parts of the House concurred. When this Bill was laid upon the Table of the House it was never contemplated that it would be used as a medium for a further endowment to Trinity College. All sections of the House had reason to complain that with little or no notice this clause was "dumped" down and they were asked to pass an endowment of £5,000 a year. Very few Irish Members had ventured to take part in this discussion to support the views of His Majesty's Government. Very few Irish Members who voted for this endowment could face their constituencies with equanimity. He could not differentiate between Trinity College and other people in Ireland who possessed similar interests. He would not follow the hon. and learned Member for York into a discussion upon the merits of Trinity College. The Solicitor-General had told them that Trinity College was a great institution of which they might all be proud. He agreed that this College had produced eminent men, but as a Catholic he contended that it had failed in its mission in a most disgraceful way and left the vast majority of an intelligent people without the University education which would fit them for their part in life. He did not know why this differentiation should be made, because there were many other institutions in Ireland which had a much greater claim upon the public purse. He failed to see how they would be able to deal with other institutions like Maynooth later on after this proposal had been carried. He had heard no justification for the Government adopting this course under a Bill for transferring the ownership of land from the landlord to the tenant. The Government appeared to be seeking by a side wind to give a further endowment to an institution which had failed in its mission and which had already had too much from public funds.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND (Clare, E.) said he wished to impress upon the Chief Secretary the great difficulty in which he had placed hon. Members representing Irish constituencies. This debate illustrated the truth of the fact that the House of Commons was the place where surprises continually took place. They had got on fairly well with the Land Bill so far, and they had discussed it without treading upon those topics which in the past had caused strong Party feeling in Ireland; but now, by some evil chance, on the very last day of the Committee stage they came down expecting their labours to be over, and found themselves suddenly launched into a debate upon the one subject which above all others was most calculated to arouse Party feeling in Ireland and the strongest possible expression of opinion from hon. Members in this House. If Nationalist Members followed the example which had been set by the hon. and learned Member for York, there would be no prospect of making any progress with the Bill that day beyond this Amendment. He did not think anybody wished to enter into a discussion of the position of Trinity College, or of education in Ireland but it was an unfortunate thing that Trinity College should be treated in this special manner. He was perfectly certain that when the people of Ireland read that almost the first grant made from this sum of money given to Ireland was to Trinity College there would be consternation and indignation from one end of the country to the other. He had been simply inundated with letters from all parts of his constituency, and from all over the country containing suggestions as to how a considerable proportion of this money could be spent to better the education of the masses of the people and approving of the national system. He had received letters from national school teachers and managers in every portion of the county of Clare begging him to bring before the right hon. Gentleman the necessity of giving some of this equivalent grant to improve the national schools, many of which were in a deplorable condition. The schools were not properly heated in the winter time, and even from the point of view of making the schools habitable and tolerable, money ought to be spent upon them. He had told the people repeatedly that he believed that when this money came to be allotted large sums would be spent for improving educational facilities amongst the masses, and that, pending this Land Bill, it was impossible to deal with the matter. To-morrow those people would find that the first sum dealt with out of this equivalent grant had been allotted not to education but had actually been given to Trinity College. It was enough to break the heart of any man who strove to bring conviction home to the people that any Government in this country could deal fairly and squarely by them. As a University for national purposes in Ireland, Trinity College had lamentably failed. This was not an occasion for discussing the University question of Ireland, and yet it was almost forced upon them. He would beg the Chief Secretary at the last moment to try if he could hit upon some other plan of dealing with the matter than the one set forth in the Amendment they were discussing. He told the Chief Secretary with every desire to make the final stages of this Bill unanimous and satisfactory to all Parties that this one thing was a taint on their proceedings and would embitter all the good things that had gone before.

It had been said that the Chief Secretary had endeavoured to meet the representatives of the masses of the Irish people, and he believed the Bill as amended undoubtedly proved that. Still the good results of any steps the Chief Secretary had taken to meet them in these matters would be completely wiped out and obliterated by this last proposal, which would raise in Ireland in one second all the questions which most divided the people, and which were most calculated to cause excitement in the country. If the right hon. Gentleman was going to deal in a special way with estates where there were middlemen let him devise some scheme in future and deal not alone with property of Trinity College but with all properties where there were middlemen. And if money was to be devoted to the solution of that branch of the question, in the name of Heaven let him have one more interview with the Chancellor of the Exchequer with a view of getting the money from some other source. When £185,000 was placed at the disposal of the Irish Government as an education equivalent grant the very first thing the Chief Secretary did with it was to give £5,000 to Trinity College. The right hon. Gentleman knew perfectly well from his intercourse with men of all sections in the country that this proposal was bad in itself. It would seem a great deal worse to the people of Ireland. It would be taken really as a challenge to them not only on the University question, but on the question of education generally in Ireland. In the name of goodness let them leave this equivalent grant alone until they could apply it to national purposes which would meet with the approval of a vast majority of the Irish people. He hoped the example of the hon. Gentleman the Member for York would not be followed. This was not the time to go into the questions raised by the very mention of the name of Trinity College. He would appeal to the right hon. Gentleman to allow them to depart from the House that evening with the consciousness that this Bill had been carried through in a spirit of toleration and fair play. He hoped the right hon. Gentleman would not in the last lines send a message to Ireland which would cause great indignation in the country.

Mr. SAMUEL YOUNG (Cavan, E.) asked whether this grant was conditional on the transfer of the land of Trinity College to the tenants?

Mr. WYNDHAM said that if the hon. Member would read the words of the clause he would see that it was only put aside for that purpose, and that it could be used for no other. He assured the hon. Member for East Clare that he had had in this matter to deal with a practical difficulty. He knew the solution he had adopted would not commend itself to hon. Members from Ireland. He wished he could find an alternative. He did not feel that he could leave this question out. and he was afraid he must ask the Committee to allow the clause to pass. He knew the fund on which the burden fell was a fund to which all Ireland was looking, and he did not attempt to minimise the disappointment hon. Members felt. He would far sooner that the money could be found from another source. But the same objection would be raised if they looked to any other source. He was not in a position to lay his hand on money for the purpose. He should be sorry if the Committee stage, which had proceeded with so much amity, were to end in another tone, and he hoped that would not be the case.

Mr. WILLIAM REDMOND: We will forget all about it in three months.

Mr. SWIFT MACNEILL said he believed this vote now to be passed would do no good to Trinity College, but rather the reverse. It would embitter feeling against that institution. He was going to vote deliberately against this grant to Trinity College, because when he went through Ireland he saw the ruins of Irish Catholic Universities, and because University Education was withheld from his Catholic fellowcountrymen. He would not have the heart in these circumstances to vote an additional endowment of £5,000 to Trinity College. The 220,000 acres held by Trinity College came to that institution from the Catholic University in Dublin. Before Oxford and Cambridge were founded the Irish Universities shed their light all over Europe, but these institutions were now silent. He had heard the Prime Minister say that he had not the heart to propose a Vote for £5,000 to Belfast College when the great mass of the Irish people who were Roman Catholics had no College at all.

Question put.

Committee divided. Ayes, 197; Noes, 134. (Division List No. 140.)

AYES.

Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arrol, Sir William
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Aubrey-Fletcher, Rt. Hn. Sir H.
Bagot, Capt. Josceline Fitzroy
Bailey, James (*Walworth*)
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Baird, John George Alexander
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J. (*Man'r*
Balfour, Captain C. B. (*Hornsey*)
Balfour, Kenneth R. (*Christch*
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Beach, Rt. Hon. Sir M. Hicks
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bignold, Arthur
Bill, Charles
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bond, Edward
Brand, Hon. Arthur G.
Brassy, Albert
Bullard, Sir Harry
Butcher, John George
Campbell, Rt Hn J A (*Glasg.*)
Campbell, J. H. M. (*Dublin Univ*
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Cavendish, R. F. (*N. Lancs.*)
Cavendish, V. C. W. (*Derbysh.*
Cayzer, Sir Charles William
Cecil, Evelyn (*Aston Manor*)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (*Greenwich*)
Chamberlain, Rt Hon J (*Birm*
Chamberlain, Rt. Hn. J A (*Worc*
Chamberlayne, T. (*Southmptn*
Chapman, Edward
Charrington, Spencer
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Clare, Octavius Leigh
Clive, Captain Percy A.
Cochrane, Hon. T. H. A. E.
Collings, Rt Hon. Jesse
Colomb, Sir John Charles Ready
Compton, Lord Alwyne
Cox, Irwin Edward Bainbridge
Craig, Charles Curtis (*Antrim, S*
Cripps, Charles Alfred
Cross, Alexander (*Glasgow*)
Cross, H. Shepherd (*Bolton*)
Crossley, Sir Savile
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Denny, Colonel
Dickinson, Robert Edmond
Dickson, Charles Scott
Digby, John K. D. Wingfield-
Dixon-Hartland, Sir F. Dixon
Dorington, Rt. Hon. Sir J. E.
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers
Duke, Henry Edward
Egerton, Hon. A. de Tatton
Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Ed.
Fergusson, Rt Hn Sir J. (*Manc'r*
Finch, Rt. Hn. George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
FitzGerald, Sir Robert Penrose
Fitzroy, Hon. Edw. Algernon
Forster, Henry William
Foster, Philip S. (*Warwick, S. W*
Galloway, William Johnson
Garfit, William
Gibbs, Hn. Vicary (*St. Albans*
Godson, Sir Augustus Fredk.
Gordon Hn. J. E. (*Elgin & Nrn*
Gore, Hn G. R. C. Ormsby-(*Salop*
Gore, Hon. S. F. Ormsby-(*Linc.*
Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Greene, Sir E. W. (*Bury St. Ed.*
Greene, Henry D. (*Shrewsbury*)
Greene, W. Raymond (*Cambs*
Gretton, John
Groves, James Grimble
Hain, Edward
Hall, Edward Marshall
Hamilton, Rt. Hn. Ld. G. (*Mid'x*
Hamilton, Marq. of (*Londondy*
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Harris, Frederick Leverton
Haslam, Sir Alfred S.
Hatch, Ernest Frederick G.
Heath, James (*Staffs., N. W.*)
Henderson, Sir Alexander
Hermon-Hodge, Sir Robert T.
Hope, J. F. (*Sheff., B'tside*)
Hoult, Joseph
Howard, J. (*Midd., Tott'ham*
Hutton, John (*Yorks., N. R.*)
Jebb, Sir Richard Claverhouse
Kemp, Lieut.-Colonel George
Kennaway, Rt. Hn. Sir John H.
Kenyon, Hon. G. T. (*Denbigh*
Kenyon-Slaney, Col. W. (*Salop*
Kerr, John
Keswick, William
King, Sir Henry Seymour
Law, Andrew Bonar (*Glasgow*
Lawson, John Grant (*Yorks. NR*
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Llewellyn, Evan Henry
Lockwood, Lieut.-Col. A. R.
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lowe, Francis William
Lucas, Col. Francis (*Lowestoft*
Lyttelton, Hon. Alfred
Macdona, John Cumming
M'Arthur, Charles (*Liverpool*)
M'Calmont, Colonel James
M'Iver, Sir Lewis (*Edinb'rgh W*
M'Kenna, Reginald
M'Killop, Jas. (*Stirlingshire*)
Martin, Richard Biddulph
Massey-Mainwaring, Hn. W. F.
Middlemore, Jn. Throgmorton
Montagu, G. (*Huntingdon*)
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
Moore, William (*Antrim, N.*)
More, Robt. Jasper (*Shropshire*)
Morgan, D. J. (*Walthamstow*)
Morgan, Hn. F. (*Monm'thsh.*)
Morrell, George Herbert
Morton, Arthur H. Aylmer
Mount, William Arthur
Murray, Rt Hn. A Graham (*Bute*
Murray, Charles J. (*Coventry*)
Myers, William Henry
O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
Orr-Ewing, Charles Lindsay
Palmer, Walter (*Salisbury*)
Pease, H. Pike (*Darlington*)
Peel, Hn. Wm. R. Wellesley
Pemberton, John S. G.
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Plummer, Walter R.
Pretyman, Ernest George
Rattigan, Sir William Henry
Reid, James (*Greenock*)
Renshaw, Sir Charles Bine
Renwick, George
Robertson, Herbert (*Hackney*)
Robinson, Brooke
Robson, William Snowdon
Rolleston, Sir John F. L.
Ropner, Colonel Sir Robert
Round, Rt. Hon. James
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Rutherford, John (*Lancashire*)

Saunderson, Rt. Hn. Col. E. J.
Seely, Maj. J. E.B. (*Isle of Wight*
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Simeon, Sir Barrington
Skewes-Cox, Thomas
Smith, Abel H. (*Hertford, East*
Smith, H C (*North'mb. Tyneside*
Stanley, Edward Jas. (*Somerset*
Stewart, Sir M. J. M'Taggart
Stirling-Maxwell, Sir Jn. M.
Talbot, Lord E. (*Chichester*)
Talbot, Rt Hn J. G. *Oxford Univ.*
Taylor, Austin (*East Toxteth*)
Tomlinson, Sir Wm. Edw. M.
Tritton, Charles Ernest
Valentia, Viscount
Walker, Col. William Hall
Walrond, Rt. Hon. Sir W. H.
Wanklyn, James Leslie
Warde, Colonel C. E.
Webb, Col. William George
Welby, Lt.-Col. A. C E (*Taunton*
Welby, Sir Chas. G. E. (*Notts*)
Whiteley, H. (*Ashton-un.-Lyne*
Whitmore, Charles Algernon
Wills, Sir Frederick
Wilson, A. S. (*York, E. R.*)
Wilson, John (*Falkirk*)
Wilson, John (*Glasgow*)
Wodehouse, Rt. Hn. E. R. (*Bath*
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Worsley-Taylor, Hry. Wilson
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart
Wrightson, Sir Thomas
Wylie, Alexander
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Wyndham-Quin, Major W. H.
Younger, William

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Abraham, W. (*Cork, N.E.*)
Allan, Sir William (*Gateshead*)
Ambrose, Robert
Atherley-Jones, L.
Barlow, John Emmott
Barry, E. (*Cork, S.*)
Bayley, Thomas (*Derbyshire*)
Beaumont, Wentworth C. B.
Blake, Edward
Boland, John
Bolton, Thomas Dolling
Brown, Geo. M. (*Edinburgh*)
Burke, E. Haviland
Burns, John
Burt, Thomas
Caldwell, James
Cameron, Robert
Campbell, John (*Armagh, S.*)
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Carew, James Laurence
Cawley, Frederick
Clancy, John Joseph
Cogan, Denis J.
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Crean, Eugene
Cullinan, J.
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, M. Vaughan (*Cardign*
Delany, William
Devlin, Chas. Ramsay (*Galway*
Devlin, Joseph (*Kilkenny, N.*)
Dillon, John
Doogan, P. C.
Douglas, Charles M. (*Lanark*)
Duffy, William J.
Dunn, Sir William
Emmott, Alfred
Farrell, James Patrick
Fenwick, Charles
Ffrench, Peter
Field, William
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Flynn, James Christopher
Furness, Sir Christopher
Gilhooly, James
Grey, Rt. Hn. Sir E. (*Berwick*
Hammond, John
Hardie, J. Keir (*Merthyr Tyd*
Hayden, John Patrick
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Charles Seale-
Healy, Timothy Michael
Hemphill, Rt. Hon. Charles H.
Hope, John Deans (*Fife, West*
Hutchinson, Dr. Charles Fredk.
Hutton, Alfred E. (*Morley*)
Joicey, Sir James
Jones, Wm. (*Carnarvonshire*)
Jordan, Jeremiah
Joyce, Michael
Kilbride, Denis
Kitson, Sir James
Lambert, George
Law, H. Alex. (*Donegal, W.*)
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leamy, Edmund
Leese, Sir Jos. F. (*Accrington*)
Leigh, Sir Joseph
Leng, Sir John
Levy, Maurice
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
MacDonnell, Dr. Mark A.
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
MacVeagh, Jeremiah
M'Arthur, William (*Cornwall*
M'Fadden, Edward
M'Govern, T.
M'Kean, John
M'Killop, W. (*Sligo, North*)
M'Laren, Sir Charles Benj.
Mather, Sir William
Mooney, John J.
Morley, Charles (*Breconshire*)
Murnaghan, George
Murphy, John
Newnes, Sir George
Nolan, Col. John P. (*Galway, N.*
Nolan, Joseph (*Louth, S.*)
Norman, Henry
Nussey, Thomas Willans
O'Brien, James F. X. (*Cork*)
O'Brien, K. (*Tipperary, Mid*)
O'Brien, Patrick (*Kilkenny*)
O'Brien, P. J. (*Tipperary, N.*)
O'Brien, William (*Cork*)
O'Connor, Jas. (*Wicklow, W.*)
O'Connor, T. P. (*Liverpool*)
O'Donnell, John (*Mayo, S.*)
O'Donnell, T. (*Kerry, W.*)
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, Conor (*Mayo, N.*)
O'Kelly, J. (*Roscommon, N.*)
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
O'Shee, James John
Partington, Oswald
Philipps, John Wynford
Pirie, Duncan V.
Power, Patrick Joseph
Reddy, M.
Redmond, Jn. E. (*Waterford*)
Redmond, William (*Clare*)
Roche, John
Russell, T. W.
Samuel, Herbt. L. (*Cleveland*)
Shackleton, David James
Sheehan, Daniel Daniel
Sinclair, John (*Forfarshire*)
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Strachey, Sir Edward
Sullivan, Donal
Thomas, E. Freeman (*Hastings*)
Thompson, Dr E C (*Monagh'n, N*
Tomkinson, James
Tully, Jasper
White, Luke (*York, E.R.*)
Whiteley, G. (*York, W. R.*)
Whitley, J. H. (*Halifax*)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Wilson, F.W. (*Norfolk, Mid*)
Wilson, John (*Durham, Mid.*)
Young, Samuel
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
Sir Thomas Esmonde and Captain Donelan.

MR. T. W. RUSSELL said he proposed to move as an Amendment to add to the end of the clause—

> "Provided this grant-in-aid shall be so applied for a period of five years from the date of the passing of this Act."

They had had a great deal of discussion on a time limit as to the general application of the bonus, and he thought that there was a great deal to be said against the application of the time limit to the bonus itself, from the standpoint of the Stock Exchange; but nothing could really be urged against confining this grant-in-aid to Trinity College to a period of five years.

*THE CHAIRMAN said that the Amendment would practically negative the whole clause—the point of which was that the grant must be continuous. He could not receive the Amendment.

Clause added to the Bill.

New clause (Provision for sale at a loss of congested estates).

"In page 20, after Clause 39, to insert the following clause—'(1) On the completion of the re-sale of any congested estate purchased by the Land Commission an account shall be prepared showing the profit or loss in connection with the purchase and re-sale of the whole of the congested estates purchased and re-sold up to date. (2) If the account shows on the whole of the transactions a net loss, that is to say, an excess in the amounts paid by the Land Commission over the capital sums realised by the Land Commission for re-sales, interest at the rate of two and three-quarters per cent. and sinking fund at the rate of ten shillings per cent. on the amount of the said net loss, within a limit of ten per cent. of the aggregate sums realised by the re-sale of the estates, shall, in accordance with rules made by the Treasury, be paid as part of the expenses of the Land Commission, and credited to the Irish Land Purchase Fund, until the amount of the loss is discharged. (3) In calculating the profit and loss on the purchase and re-sale of congested estates, no account shall be taken of any money expended by the Land Commission for the benefit or improvement of the estates, nor of any increase of price obtained by them in consequence of such expenditure.'"—(*Mr. Wyndham.*)

Brought up, and read the first time.

Motion made, and Question "That the clause be read a second time" put, and agreed to.

Clause added to the Bill.

New clause (Resumption of holdings by Congested Districts Board).

"In page 34, after Clause 75, to insert the following clause—'The resumption of a holding during the continuance of a statutory term by the Congested Districts Board may be authorised under Sub-section 6 and Section 5 of the Act of 1881 for the purposes of migration or the enlargement of holdings in addition to the purposes specified in that sub-section.'"—(*Mr. Wyndham.*)

Brought up, and read the first time.

Motion made, and Question "That the clause be read a second time" put, and agreed to.

Clause added to the Bill.

New clause (Under Secretary to be member of Board).

"In page 34, after Clause 75, to insert the following clause—'The Under Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant shall be ex-officio a member of the Congested Districts Board.'"—(*Mr. Wyndham.*)

Brought up, and read the first time.

Motion made, and Question "That the clause be read a second time" put, and agreed to.

Clause added to the Bill.

New clause (Scheme under Labourers Acts to be framed by Land Commission).

"In page 37, after Clause 84, to insert the following clause—'(1) Where the Land Commission have purchased an estate, or where application is made to the Commission to sanction advances for the purchase of holdings comprised in an estate, they shall make inquiry as to whether accommodation is needed for labourers on the estate, and if of opinion that such accommodation is needed they shall frame a scheme providing therefor. (2) Every such scheme shall be forwarded to the Local Government Board for Ireland and the council of the rural district in which the land comprised in the scheme is situate, and shall be deemed a representation made to the council under the Labourers' (Ireland) Acts, 1883 to 1896, and those Acts shall apply accordingly.'"—(*Mr. Wyndham.*)

Brought up, and read the first time.

Motion made, and Question "That the clause be read a second time" put, and agreed to.

*SIR JOHN COLOMB (Great Yarmouth) moved as an Amendment to omit from the first sub-section, line 1, after the word "estate" to the word "estate" in line 3. The effect of this Amendment would be to exclude from the operation of the clause estates sold by the landlord direct to the tenants without coming to the Land Commission.

Amendment proposed—

"In line 1, to leave out from the word 'or' to the word 'estate' in line 3."—(*Sir John Colomb.*)

Question proposed—

"That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the clause."

MR. ATKINSON said that his hon. and gallant friend must be aware that both under the Land Act of 1881 and the Land Purchase Act of 1891, it was competent for the Commissioners to direct that provision be made for labourers who lived on the farm. The Commissioners would be more free to act when they purchased the estate. It had to be remembered that the scheme when promoted would only amount to representation. If the District Council made up its mind it would have the power to acquire compulsorily as much land as was necessary. It did not prevent in any way the sale being carried out, but simply put the new proprietors in the same position as the old proprietor.

MR. T. M. HEALY said the proposal was ridiculous and utterly ineffective. It might well be relegated to accompany the Bill which they were told might be introduced next session. As he understood it, the idea was to place the Estates Commissioners, who did not know the district at all, in the place of the boards of guardians who did know it, and to enable the Estates Commissioners to carry out the work at the expense of the boards of guardians. It merely meant that the Estates Commissioners could make a representation which any twelve labourers could make at the present moment. The whole clause was a farce. He could not conceive that either Mr. Wrench or Mr. Bailey would have the interests of the labourers more at heart than would the Poor Law guardians. It was the acme of ridicule.

* MR. O'SHEE thought this clause was an advantage because, individually, labourers very often made a mistake which told against their own interests.

* SIR JOHN COLOMB said he only wanted an assurance that the scheme would in no way interfere or delay the sanction where the Commissioners purchased the whole of the estate. He did not like the clause, but he would not pursue the matter further.

MR. ATKINSON said one advantage would be that the Commissioners would have the whole thing before them, whereas at present each labourer sent in his own representation, and it was never done in the right way. Here the Commissioners would promote a general scheme that would be sent forward to the District Council.

MR. T. W. RUSSELL could understand that the Estates Commissioners would be better able to form a scheme than the individual labourer. But if the Estates Commissioners made up their scheme and sent it forward to the Local Government Board and the District Council, who was to defend it or press it on if the District Council would have nothing to do with it?

MR. ATKINSON said it had to be remembered that as often as not these Councils refused to act.

* SIR JOHN COLOMB, in view of the right hon. Gentleman's assurance, begged leave to withdraw the Amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

And, it being half-past Seven of the clock, the Chairman left the Chair to make his Report to the House.

Committee report Progress; to sit again this evening.

EVENING SITTING.

IRISH LAND BILL.

Considered in Committee.

[In the Committee.]

[MR. J. W. LOWTHER (Cumberland, Penrith) in the Chair.]

* MR. O'SHEE said the Amendment he now proposed was for the purpose of enabling the local District Councils to do for the labourers living outside the villages and towns that which they now had power to do for those living inside the villages and towns, namely, to acquire tracts of land and parcel them out in allotments among the labourers. He never could understand the distinction which had been made in the Labourers Acts with regard to this matter. His Amendment was to insert in the new

clause before the word "accommodation" the word "house," and after the word "accommodation," "land for allotment," and after the word "accommodation" in the next line "or land." At present, under Section 16 of the Act of 1885, local authorities had power to compulsorily acquire land in towns and villages, and parcel out that land among the labourers living in those towns and villages. What he proposed to do by his Amendment was to give the Rural District Councils an extension of that right by enabling them to parcel out this land to any labourers. He could never understand the restriction placed upon the Rural District Council in this matter, but the fact remained that whereas they could grant allotments to labourers living in the villages and towns, they could not grant allotments to labourers outside without providing them with a house. He had put this Amendment down as a consequence of the statement of the Chief Secretary when he raised the question on Clause 4. The right hon. Gentleman then pointed out that the proper place to discuss it would be in Part IV. of the Bill, where he stated he intended to put down a clause to deal with the question. The word "accommodation" in the clause of the right hon. Gentleman read in conjunction with the Labourers Acts could only be interpreted to mean house accommodation, and his contention was that it should also include land accommodation and land for allotment. In many cases labourers living outside the villages and towns had fairly comfortable houses, which, at a small expense, could be made sanitary and fairly suitable for their accommodation, and they only applied for new houses in order to obtain the allotments which went with them. The provision of new houses for the labourers threw a very great burden upon the rates, and all he sought to do by his Amendments was to enable the rural district councils to allot land to those labourers without being under the necessity to provide them also with a house. His Amendments, if carried, would make the clause read as follows—

"(1) Where the Land Commission have purchased an estate, or where application is made to the Commission to sanction advances for the purchase of holdings comprised in an estate, they shall make inquiry as to whether house accommodation or land for allotment is needed for labourers on the estate, and if of opinion that such accommodation or land is needed they shall frame a scheme providing therefor."

Amendment proposed—

"In line 4, after the word 'whether' to insert the word 'house,' after the word 'accommodation' to insert the words 'or land for allotment,' and in line 5, after the word 'accommodation,' to insert the words 'or land.'"—(*Mr. O'Shee.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

MR. ATKINSON said that he had great sympathy with the views and object of the hon. Member, who desired to give allotments to labourers living in the country, though no house had been built for them. But he desired to point out to the hon. Member that his suggestion really amounted to an alteration of the Labourers Acts, and in this way he had misapprehended the object of the Chief Secretary's Amendment, which was to render effective the provisions which had hitherto been abortive in the Acts of 1881 and 1890. The question of allotments and their size should be left aside until they came to be dealt with in the general measure which the Chief Secretary proposed to introduce.

MR. O'SHEE urged that the Amendment was a reasonable one. He had put down an Amendment to Clause 4 to enable trustees to acquire land for allotments. He had also put down an Amendment to Clause 2 to include labourers among the classes of persons entitled to obtain untenanted land. The Chief Secretary had asked that the discussion of the claims of the labourers should be deferred until Part IV. was reached, and he had undertaken to deal in the new clause which he then promised with the question of allotments of land. But the clause as it stood did not fulfil the promise of the right hon. Gentleman, in consequence of which he had withdrawn his Amendment to Clause 4, stating that he did so on the understanding that the claims of the labourers to a share of the untenanted lands would not thereby be jeopardised.

MR. WYNDHAM said a good deal which the hon. Gentleman had said had greatly interested him, but he would ask the hon. Gentleman in this matter for one moment to place himself in his position. Since the discussion on Clause 2 a great deal had happened, but nothing had happened to diminish the claims of the labourers, while much had been done to convince them that they could not deal adequately with the question at the present moment. He would ask the hon. Member to realise that it was not fair to hon. Members on both sides of the House, who were deeply interested in various questions, to suggest that his Amendment should be accepted and theirs pushed aside. That was not likely to conduce to a proper solution of the labourers' question. He appealed to the hon. Member not to try and amend the general law at half-past nine on the 8th July. If that were attempted other Members would naturally follow suit, and it would be impossible to discriminate between their Amendments. They must therefore make up their minds either to devote another fortnight to the Bill or to deal with the question next year. If they would adopt the latter course he would pledge himself to give his attention to the matter in the autumn, and he would welcome and consider any suggestions the hon. Member might forward to him.

Question put, and negatived.

Mr. CULLINAN moved a further Amendment, the object of which he said was to expedite proceedings.

Amendment proposed—

"To add at the end of the proposed new clause the following—'When the Council of the rural district approve of any such scheme the Local Government Board shall sanction the same without inquiry.'"—(*Mr Cullinan.*)

Question proposed, "That those] words be there added."

Mr. ATKINSON described this as an attempt to galvanise into life two Acts which had proved dead letters. The Government could not accept the Amendment.

Question put, and negatived.

Mr. T. W. RUSSELL asked the Chief Secretary if he were seized of the fact that the case of the labourers in the north of Ireland was totally different from that of the south.

Mr. WYNDHAM replied in the affirmative. He had gone to a certain extent into the question, and pledged himself to use his utmost endeavours to promote legislation next year.

Clause added to the Bill.

New clause.

"In page 38, after Clause 85, to insert the following clause—'Nothing in this Act shall affect (*a*) any sporting rights, mineral rights, or water rights which are not in the possession or enjoyment of the vendor at the time of sale; (*b*) any mine or quarry which is being worked or developed by the vendor at the time of sale; or (*c*) any right to water power in actual use by the vendor at the time of sale.'"—(*Mr. Wyndham.*)

Brought up, and read the first time.

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the clause be read a second time."

*Sir JOHN COLOMB said he had intended to move several Amendments to this clause, but he would instead ask for an assurance from the right hon. Gentleman that between this and the Report stage he would reconsider this question. The clause was not in any sense satisfactory. It proceeded upon two opposite principles in dealing with matters of outside arrangement between landlord and tenant. He had never been an advocate of taking anything from the tenants which really belonged to them. This clause proposed to exclude from the operation of the Bill sporting rights which were not in the possession or enjoyment of the vendor at the time of sale, while it also excluded mines and quarries, which were being worked by the vendor at the time of sale. These were two exactly opposite principles. A vendor might before sale open and work a quarry on the tenants' land, and would have the right permanently reserved to him; but, on the other hand, if he had a salmon or trout fishery in his own use and enjoyment it would have no protection at all. Surely the same principle ought to apply to both cases? Again, there were many mines in Ireland which were in process of working in the bad times of 1879-1882, which had in consequence to be stopped, because the circumstances of the period frightened away capital, and if they were to lay down the principle that landlords were to be deprived of their rights in them because they were not actually being worked at the time of sale, the Bill would not be likely to bring a message of peace to Ireland. As to the sporting rights, Mr. Gladstone in his Act of 1881 was very careful to reserve the rights of landlords. The right hon. Gentleman had not been equally careful, and, therefore, this clause required reconsideration before the Report stage. He asked for an assurance that it should receive it.

MR. WYNDHAM said his hon. and gallant friend would not deny that the clause represented the general arrangement which was arrived at on a former occasion, and he thought he would feel that the question ought not to be re-opened during the Committee stage. Of course, there would be an interval before Report, and during this interval he would be willing to listen to his hon. and gallant friend. But he would in return ask him to listen to him. If he would, he did not despair of convincing him that the clause was satisfactory.

MR. DILLON hoped the right hon. Gentleman would also listen to the Nationalist Members, who thought a great deal too much was given to the landlords.

MR. WYNDHAM said he would, of course, listen to every one. But he urged that they could not profitably re-open the question at that stage.

*SIR JOHN COLOMB said he spoke for very large interests, and he doubted if the right hon. Gentleman, with all his tremendous power of persuasiveness, would convince him that the clause was fair as it stood.

MR. KENNETH BALFOUR (Christchurch) desired to enter his protest against the proposal to take away without payment the mineral rights now owned by landlords.

MR. JOYCE (Limerick) suggested that fishermen had rights which they had exercised for many years, and which ought also to be safeguarded.

MR. WYNDHAM: I think they are.

MR. JOYCE: I don't think so, and I hope the right hon. Gentleman will put in words to make it clear.

MR. BUTCHER pointed out the necessity for some definition of mineral and water rights.

Question put, and agreed to.

Clause added to the Bill.

COLONEL NOLAN, on behalf of the hon. Member for North Monaghan, moved the following new clause.

New clause (Erection of new cottages)—

"In page 37, after Clause 84, to insert the following clause, 'Where there is a labourer in occupation of a cottage which is declared on inspection by the health officer both unhealthy and possessing insufficient accommodation, and which is necessary for the proper working of the farm upon which it is built, the District Council, on receiving the health officer's report, shall direct the erection of a new cottage, and shall have power to purchase an acre of ground surrounding the cottage, for the purposes of the labourer.' "—(*Colonel Nolan.*)

Brought up, and read the first time.

Motion made and Question proposed, "That this clause be read a second time."

MR. WYNDHAM repeated his appeal to hon. Members not to bring forward these Amendments affecting the labourers' question. He had already promised to consider this matter in the autumn.

COLONEL NOLAN: I withdraw the clause.

Motion, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. HAYDEN (Roscommon, S.), on behalf of the hon Member for Dublin County N. moved the following clause.

New clause (removal of restraints on alienation)—

"For the purpose of a sale under the Land Purchase Acts, as defined by this Act, whether to the Land Commission or otherwise, all covenants, agreements, and conditions in any lease or fee farm grant prohibiting, restraining, or tending to restrain the alienation of any land held thereunder, shall be deemed to be wholly void and inoperative, and so much of Section 33 of the Act of 1870 and Section 29 of the Land Act of 1881 as requires the waiver or determination of such prohibition is hereby repealed."—(*Mr. Hayden.*)

Brought up, and read the first time.

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the clause be read a second time."

MR. ATKINSON said he would accept the clause, on the understanding that between now and the Report stage he should be at liberty to consider the matter, as possibly some of the provisions at the end of the clause were rather too wide.

Question put, and agreed to.

Clause added to the Bill.

MR. O'KELLY (Mayo, N.): In moving a new clause, "Definition of congested districts," said he hoped to convince the Committee that several districts in the West were wrongly excluded from the operation of the Congested Districts Act, because the Board in making their valuations included valuations of each grazing rancher so as to artificially increase the valuation per head of the population to more than the 30s. limit. In view of the remarks that fell from the Chief Secretary a few days ago on the subject of the definition of congested areas, he could hardly have believed that he would resist a revision of the present system of scheduling districts—indeed, considering what he said on that occasion he was rather surprised that the Chief Secretary did not introduce a clause into the Bill dealing with this very important matter. At the present moment no electoral division answered to the description of a scheduled district if the valuation per head of the population was above 30s., but they knew, and no one knew it better than the Chief Secretary, that there were many districts where the condition of the people is not one whit better than the condition of those in the scheduled areas; yet under the present system these districts could not be brought within the Congested Districts Act of 1891. He could understand the fixing of the 30s. limit. Any rough and ready index sufficed in the experimental stages of the Board's work, but surely these stages were long since passed. The time had come to enlarge the scope of the Board's work, and the first step in this direction must be the abolition of the 30s. limit. As he said, it did not much matter in the beginning, but as a fixed and permanent standard by which the condition of the people in the West was to be judged, he knew nothing more fallacious and misleading. Several districts now excluded would answer to the definition of a congested district if the calculations were made on the valuation of the actual holdings of the occupiers, a course that would seem the perfectly obvious one, but the Board could not do that. They had to include the valuation of the large grazing tracts, which had as little relation to the condition of the people as the gold mines in the Transvaal, with the result that the per head valuation of the population was artificially raised far above the standard. Let him show how this method worked. In the Claremorris Union, in the county of Mayo, there are nineteen electoral divisions, of which eleven are scheduled as congested. Eight divisions are unscheduled, although, to his own knowledge, not a single one of them is a bit better off than the scheduled districts. Take Ballindine electoral division; its area is 5,502 acres, population 849, valuation £3,136, roughly. The valuation works out at £3 13s. per head of the population when the grazing land is included. Of the 5,502 acres in the division, 3,403 acres were grazing land, and are in the sole occupation of four individuals, the 849 people having to be content with the balance of 2,099 acres, but if the valuation of the grazing land, which was £1,863, be excluded, the valuation per head of the people falls, roughly, from £3 13s. to £1 9s., at which figure the Ballindine Electoral Division could be scheduled as a congested district. In Caraun Division the per head valuation, including the grazing land, was £1 16s. Excluding it, it dropped to a little over £1 1s. In Crossboyne Division, where twelve graziers hold nearly 2,000 acres out of a total of 3,437 acres, with a grazing valuation of £1,189, as against an occupying valuation of only £884, the per head valuation including the grass ranches ran up to £3 17s. Excluding them, it dropped to £1 6s., well within the figure at which they could be scheduled. In this paradise of the ranches 675 people had to be content with about 1,400 acres, whilst twelve graziers enjoy 2,000 acres. In Kilcolman the per head valuation, including grazing land, was £2 4s., excluding it £1 10s. In Ballyhowley Division, the per head valuation, including grazing land, was, roughly, £1 18s., excluding it, roughly, £1 11s. And so on. Taking the whole union, excluding the valuation of grazing land, which amounted to £8,949, the per head valuation came to a little over £1 6s. It was admitted by everyone that holdings valued at or under £8, some would say £10, but he confined himself to the former figures, were not sufficient to afford subsistence to a family. These were the very holdings which needed the attention of a body such as a Congested Districts Board. They were the holdings which needed to be enlarged and improved, but as those stood now they were shut out from any help. In Ballindine Electoral Division there were 173 holdings under £8 out of a total of 187; in Ballyhowley, 121 out of 187; in Caraun, 170 out of 218; in Crossboyne, 110 out of 137; in Carrymore, 176 out of 256; in Kilcolman, 115 out of 162; in Mayoabbey, 149 out of 192; in Tagheen, 100 out of 125 — making 1,114 holdings under £8 valuation out of a total of 1,459 holdings in the eight unscheduled but really congested electoral divisions of the Claremorris Union. He would be curious to know what defence the Chief Secretary could make of a plan of scheduling that excludes 1,114 occupiers under £8 from the operation of an Act that was passed for the relief of that very class; and he might say here that almost three-fourths of these 1,114 holdings were under £4 valuation. These extraordinary anomalies were produced in every union in Mayo that was not scheduled as wholly congested. Take Killala Union. In this union but two of the eight divisions were scheduled. In the scheduled there were 439 occupiers of £8 valuation, while in the unscheduled districts there were no fewer than 1,004 under £8. How can the Chief Secretary have said that he was satisfied with the definition of a congested county that excluded 70 per cent. of small holders, the great majority of whom were under £4 valuation, in one of the poorest unions in the west of Ireland? Take Ballina Union. There are twenty divisions, of which ten were unscheduled In these ten unscheduled districts there were no fewer than 1,632 holdings under £8, the great majority of them being under £4. Here over 42 per cent of the small holders are excluded. Take Castlebar Union. Eight divisions out of nineteen were defined as congested. In the eleven undefined districts there were 2,917 holdings under £8, the great majority of them being under £4. Out of a total in the scheduled and non-scheduled divisions under £8, 5,444, or over 53 per cent. of the very poorest people were put outside an Act that was supposed to be passed for their benefit. What was the condition of things in Ballinrobe Union? Five out of eighteen divisions were scheduled. In the scheduled portion there were only 794 occupiers under £8, whilst in the unscheduled divisions there were 2,649 or nearly 77 per cent. of the small occupiers excluded by an arbitrary and senseless definition. Ballinrobe was essentially the land of grazing ranches. The thirteen divisions unscheduled were kept outside the provisions of the Congested Districts Act, because the high valuation of the grazing ranches, in which the Ballinrobe Union abounds, took them far above the 30s. limit. The occupying valuation in this union was £27,780, the grazing valuation no less than £26,000, forty-seven landlords, of whom thirty-four were absentees, holding one-third of the entire union; 43,115 acres at a valuation of £15,000; and thirty-four graziers, of whom sixteen were absentees, holding nearly 18,000 acres, at a valuation of nearly £10,000. It was not difficult to understand that in this union, in these circumstances the per head valuation was over £2 13s., including the grass lands, of course, whilst the per head valuation falls to £1 4s 3d. when the grazing lands were omitted from the calculation. He had not referred to the few unscheduled districts in Westport Union. In Belmullet and Swinford all the divisions were scheduled. From the figures placed at their disposal by the excellent reports prepared by the clerk of the Mayo unions they find that over 9,000 occupiers under £8 valuation, representing some 40,000 people, the very class of small holders to whom the work of the Board would be an advantage, had their divisions unscheduled through a provision for which the Chief Secretary would find it hard to make even a plausible defence. What he (Mr. O'Kelly) suggested was that the counties be scheduled as a whole. Let the Board not be hampered in its work by a rule which confines its labours within narrow and arbitrarily selected areas. Let it be free to apply itself to congestion where congestion exists. The present Bill would give the Board a larger and increased credit. Let the area of its work be increased accordingly. He asked to have the counties scheduled as a whole. It was true that he did not give the figures for any county save Mayo, but the condition in the county of Mayo approximately represented the condition in every other county of the West. He would watch with interest to see whether the Chief Secretary would put an end to a system which results in such unfair and indefensible distinctions between the same class of small occupiers, and which were so lucidly set forth in the admirable reports of the Mayo District Council. However, the Chief Secretary said there were difficulties in the way of rescheduling. Of course there were. The land question bristled with difficulties in every aspect of it, but what was Parliament for? What were Irish Secretaries and Irish Law Advisers for? To solve these difficulties, of course. The Chief Secretary wanted this Bill to settle for ever the Irish agrarian difficulties, but his refusal to revise the present system of scheduling would not tend to improve matters in the West, and surely he ought to know by this time that until the problem of congestion be solved the last word would not have been said on the Irish land question. He begged to move.

New clause (Definition of Congested Districts)—

"The whole of each of the counties of Galway, Mayo, Sligo, Roscommon, Leitrim, Cork, Kerry, Limerick, Clare, and Donegal shall be a congested districts county within the meaning and for the purposes of the Congested Districts Board (Ireland) Acts as amended by this Act." —(*Mr. O'Kelly.*)

Brought up and read the first time.

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the clause be read a second time."

MR. DILLON said he desired to support the speech of his hon. friend, although it might not be of much avail at that period of the discussion. The original system under which these districts were scheduled was preposterous, and the only answer that had ever been made was that when the original schedules were prepared the Board had no conception of the importance of migration. It was a great misfortune that the Chief Secretary had not dealt with the question in this Bill in a more liberal and comprehensive spirit, but it was only fair to the right hon. Gentleman to say that he had met many of the objections by the Act of 1901. That was a very valuable Act, as it gave the Congested Districts Board power to buy estates in any part of Ireland, and to turn them for the time being into congested districts.

MR. WYNDHAM urged that the Bill should be given a fair trial. He recognised that this question had been very briefly discussed, and hon. Members who were particularly interested in this particular matter had shown a great sense of proportion in subordinating their interests to the interests of Ireland as a whole. He himself felt very deeply in this matter, and might easily be led into making a long speech. It was impossible to re-schedule the congested districts without altering the fundamental financial provisions of the Bill and existing Acts, and that was an operation that could not be performed now. He agreed that the present system was arbitrary and fallacious as regarded congestion and migration; where he differed was as to the proper course to be taken to remedy that situation. Although the Government could not adopt the proposal of the hon. Member, they had gone a long way to turn the position, if they had not attempted to take it by a frontal attack. The Board with its great credit facilities and working capital could buy land anywhere in Ireland. Where would it buy land? Outside the areas of the congested districts. He had made the Estates

Commissioners into a Congested Districts Board, with a 10 per cent. loss in addition to the bonus for all their operations in cases of congestion, and they would operate in the very zone which the hon. Member thought was neglected. The labour of dealing with this Bill, though heavy, had been made light by the spirit of those who had taken part in the discussions, and the real work would begin at the end of August.

MR. O'KELLY said that, with the permission of the Committee, he would withdraw the clause.

Motion, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. TULLY, on behalf of the hon. and learned Member for Louth, moved the following new clause.

New clause (Mill holdings)—

"Where a mill or other non-agricultural ingredient of a holding is held under the same tenancy as agricultural land, the tenant may apply to fix a fair rent on the agricultural portion of the holding, and the Court shall direct that the non-agricultural portion of the holding shall thenceforth be treated as a separate holding, and shall be held at such rent during the continuance of the tenancy as the Court may determine to be the proper proportion of the rent reserved by the demise, and the Court may fix a fair rent for the remainder of the holding, and the Land Law Acts shall apply thereto as if it was a separate holding. This section shall apply irrespective of the nature of the tenure or demise under which the tenancy has been created."—(*Mr. Tully.*)

Brought up, and read the first time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the clause be read a second time."

MR. WYNDHAM said this clause was really an Amendment of the Land Law Acts, and he was not prepared at the present time to take up anything in connection with those Acts. This was a demand to amend the Act of 1896 in a Land Purchase Bill, and it was practically asking the other House to consider the question of land laws as well as land purchase.

Question put, and negatived.

*MR. LONSDALE said this clause was designed to relieve tenants holding under the Ulster Tenant Right Custom from certain disabilities, which in some cases had entailed much hardship and serious loss. These disabilities were connected with the sale by tenants of their holdings under the Ulster Custom. In effecting such a sale two methods of procedure were open to the tenant to adopt. He might proceed under the Act of 1881, which expressly provided that the rights of a tenant holding under the Ulster Custom should not be interfered with or injuriously affected. Or he might proceed under the Custom. The procedure was different in each case, and the tenant must take one course or the other. He could not sell partly under the Act of 1881 and partly under the Ulster Custom. If a tenant who wished to dispose of his holding elected to proceed under the Act of 1881, he served his landlord with notice of his intention to sell his holding. That notice could not be withdrawn, and so soon as the landlord received it, he might make an offer to the tenant to purchase the holding. The tenant might not think the offer sufficient; but in that case it was open to the landlord to apply to the Land Commission and get the "true value" of the holding fixed, and the landlord might then compel the tenant to sell his holding to him at the price fixed. Now, Sir, the "true value," as decided by the Land Commission, was not by any means the amount which the tenant might get in the open market. As a matter of fact, the price so fixed by the Commission has been considerably below the price which the tenant might have obtained had the landlord not exercised his compulsory powers. Still, the tenant, having once set the machinery of the Act of 1881 in motion, was absolutely powerless to arrest it, and in nearly every case tenants suffered heavy losses. Within recent years, in his own county of Armagh, there had been a considerable amount of litigation between landlords and tenants in consequence of the general exercise by landlords on two estates, of the right of pre-emption given by the Act of 1881. The result to the tenants had been loss through delay, as well as loss of the far better prices they might have obtained in the open market. The natural consequence was that the tenants on these estates abandoned the practice of selling under the Act of 1881, and attempted to proceed under the Ulster Custom. In a sale under the Custom the tenant was not bound to give notice to his landlord of his intention to sell. Having made an arrangement for the sale of his holding, he took the would-be purchaser to the landlord or his agent and got him accepted as the tenant. Of course, if he were a very objectionable person the landlord might refuse to accept him as tenant, and in that case a more acceptable person would have to be found. This was the procedure which the tenants on the two estates in Armagh, to which he had alluded, had to adopt, when the result of selling under the Act of 1881 proved so prejudicial to their interest. They were, however, at once met by a new move on the part of the landlords. There was a general refusal to accept the purchaser. The object, of course, was to force the tenants to sell under the Act of 1881, so that the landlord might exercise his right of pre-emption. The matter was taken into the Courts, and at the Armagh Assizes on 10th March, 1899, Chief Baron Palles decided that the landlord could not be compelled to accept any purchaser, however unobjectionable, in a sale under the Custom, and that the only remedy the tenant appeared to him to have, was to make a claim for compensation under the Land Act of 1870. The result of that decision was that in many cases the tenants were practically debarred from selling They would not sell under the Act, because they knew that the result would be litigation, delay, and a price fixed considerably below the tenants' right value. They knew that if they attempted to sell under the Ulster Custom, the landlord or his agent would refuse to accept the purchaser. They were in a cleft stick, and had a distinct and definite grievance which Parliament ought to remedy. The remedy which he proposed was that the landlord should be obliged to accept a purchaser to whom he could not make reasonable objection, and that the Land Commission should have power to decide whether the landlord's objection was reasonable or not. It was suggested that in a sale by a tenant under the Ulster Custom, he should give notice to the landlord of the name of the purchaser and the amount of the purchase money. Then if the landlord objected, the tenant would have the power to take the matter before the Land Commission and obtain a decision as to the reasonableness or otherwise, of the landlord's objection. If the Land Commission decided that the objection was not reasonable, the objection could be set aside and the landlord would be obliged to accept the purchaser. He begged to move.

New clause (Ulster Custom)—

"When a tenant has agreed for the sale of a holding to which the Ulster Tenant Right Custom, within the meaning of Section one of the Landlord and Tenant (Ireland) Act of 1870, applies, and such sale purports to be made under the Custom, but the landlord, in breach thereof, refuses to accept the purchaser as tenant, any party interested in such agreement may apply to the Land Commission Court, who shall have jurisdiction, subject to the prescribed rules, to decide upon the reasonableness or otherwise of the landlord's objection and, if it thinks fit, may make an order declaring the purchaser, notwithstanding such refusal, to be entitled to all the interests of the tenant in such holding; and the Land Commission shall have all such jurisdiction and authority to make a decree for enforcing the rights of the purchaser in such case, including the payment of costs, as are vested in the Chancery Division of the High Court of Justice in Ireland relating to the specific performance of contracts, subject to the like appeal as in the case of other orders made by the Land Commission."—(*Mr. Lonsdale.*)

Brought up, and read the first time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the clause be read a second time."

*MR. T. W. RUSSELL agreed that this was a burning question in Ulster. During these discussions they had been discussing the right of landlords to sell, and now he wished to call attention to the right of the tenant to sell. The right of the tenant to sell under the Ulster Custom never was questioned until quite recently. Take the case of a tenant under the Ulster Custom who desired to sell his interest in his holding. He would probably find a farmer willing to purchase. That farmer might be a man of unblemished character, perfectly solvent, and in every way a suitable tenant for the holding. They might agree upon terms, and then, according to immemorial custom, the purchaser and the vendor proceeded to the rent office where the landlord was asked to accept the new tenant. For nearly 200 years that practice had gone on almost without exception. What took place now? Since the Act of 1881 was passed a new system had sprung up which allowed sale either under the Custom or under the Act. The tenant could sell under the Act of 1881, or under the Ulster Custom. If he sold under the Ulster Custom the farmer got the full market value and the landlord accepted the new tenant; but if he sold under the Act of 1881, the landlord had the right to exercise pre-emption and the landlord might come in and buy the holding at the true value and afterwards sell it at the full market price. This was a regular system—he would not call it a conspiracy—which had sprung up since the Act of 1881 to destroy the old Ulster Custom, and the very best tenants of the land were being penalised in this way, and were practically being robbed of one-third of their property. The Chief Secretary might say that this was a question of land law; so it was in one sense, but it was a sale in another, and the result would probably be that many estates would not be sold under this Act. He put it to the Chief Secretary whether this was a fair thing. Here was an immemorial custom which, by the way, was legalised in 1870 under the Statute. The Act of 1881 gave this right of pre-emption to the landlord, and he thought it was time Parliament took this matter into very serious consideration in order to bring relief to the majority of tenants in Ulster, who under this system had been deprived of their rights and robbed of their property.

MR. ATKINSON said that this was no doubt a burning question, but he hoped it would no longer remain a burning question, because this Bill would put an end to that practice. This Amendment would really do nothing to settle this controverted and complicated question. He hoped that, in view of the circumstances in which they found themselves, the Amendment would be withdrawn and the question raised on some other occasion.

MR. DILLON said this was a proposal to exempt a section of the tenants of Ulster from a penalty which affected the whole tenants of Ireland. If the hon. Member would bring in an Amendment upon the Report stage abolishing the right of pre-emption, which was a most oppressive and outrageous right, then he would give him his heartiest support. The proper course was to abolish the right of pre-emption, because by that course the tenants' right of free sale would be preserved all over Ireland. This was a burning and all-important question, and if nobody else did it, he should raise it himself on Report. He knew a poor tenant in the county of Cavan who, after having been victimised by this penal provision, was committed for contempt of court two years ago, and was now lying in Dundalk Gaol because his family took possession of the farm against this right of pre-emption on the part of the landlord. That unfortunate man was going mad in gaol because he would not surrender to what he considered was an act of robbery on the part of his landlord.

MR. HEMPHILL (Tyrone, N.) said the Committee were indebted to the hon. Member for Mid Armagh for bringing forward this Amendment. It was a question in which Ulster tenants were more interested than any other that had been broached in connection with the present Bill. Great injustice had resulted in the part of the country he represented from the capricious refusal of the landlord to accept a reasonable purchaser to whom the tenant had sold in the exercise of his immemorial tenant-right. He trusted the hon. Member would bring this question forward on the Report stage in such a shape that the House would have to decide whether this injustice was to continue.

MR. WYNDHAM agreed that this was a burning question, but it could not be discussed that night. He wished to point out in regard to the general state of affairs that the position was this. They had an hour and ten minutes left to-night. If they did not finish the Committee stage to-night it would go over to next week, and every day next week was allotted to other business. There was enough on the Paper to-night to take up a week of Parliamentary time, and he thought they should all be ready to make sacrifices in order to get the Bill through. He appealed to the Committee to take that view of the question.

MR. JOHN REDMOND said he and his colleagues all desired that the Bill should go through Committee to-night, in order that they might have the Report stage at an early date. He thought it would be a great misfortune if the Committee stage did not finish to-night. If it went over to next week that would throw back the Report stage, and in that case he did not know what the result would be. It would not get to the House of Lords for a fortnight or three weeks, and that would be very serious indeed. The question now before the Committee could be brought up on Report, and he thought it would be fair that hon. Members should make sacrifices to-night in order to let the Bill through Committee. He hoped that the Chief Secretary would use his influence with the Government in order to secure that the Report stage should not be postponed for ten days or a fortnight.

MR. WYNDHAM said his influence would be exercised in that direction. The other House had a right to discuss the Bill, and would discuss it. To drive the discussion back into the second week of August would be an act of suicidal folly.

*MR. LONSDALE said he had no desire to obstruct the passing of the Bill through Committee, but this was a matter of so much importance to his constituents that he should like some assurance that the Chief Secretary would give it his consideration.

*MR. T. W. RUSSELL said he had two Amendments on the Paper, but he would not move them as he did not desire to delay the Bill. The question raised by the hon. Member for Mid Armagh was a most serious one for the province of Ulster, and it was unfortunate that it could not be discussed on account of the Committee having given five hours of this precious day to the discussion of a question relating to Trinity College.

Question put, and negatived.

MR. HEMPHILL said he would not move the following Amendment, of which he had given notice—

"In the framing of any rules under the Land Purchase Acts, as amended by this Act, the President of the Incorporated Law Society of Ireland for the time being shall be associated with the Land Commission or the Estates Commissioners, as the case may be, as a member of the rule-making authority."

He asked the Chief Secretary whether he could bring up a clause on the Report stage to give effect to the proposal.

MR. WYNDHAM said he would consider the point.

MR. HEMPHILL moved the following new clause. He said the object of the Amendment was merely to prevent the legal assistant Commissioner from being dismissed summarily.

New clause (Tenure of legal assistant Commissioners)—

"Each legal assistant Commissioner on the permanent staff shall be paid out of moneys provided by Parliament, and shall hold his office by the same tenure as a Commissioner, other than the Judicial Commissioner, as provided by Section 28 of the Purchase of Land (Ireland) Act, 1891."—(*Mr. Hemphill.*)

Brought up, and read the first time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the clause be read a second time."

MR. WYNDHAM said he could develop his objection to the clause at length, but if he were to do so he should be sinning against the canon he had asked other people to observe. He hoped the right hon. Gentleman would not press the Amendment.

Motion, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND said he thought the following new clause, of which he had given notice was necessary.

New clause (Extension of Section 40 of the Act of 1896 to certain estates,—

"Where a judgment or order for sale of an estate in Ireland which is in the main agricultural or pastoral, or partly agricultural and partly pastoral, has been or shall be made by the High Court of Justice in England or Ireland, or by the Court of Session in Scotland, the Judge making said judgment or order shall be deemed to be the landlord of the tenants upon said estate for the purpose of sales to the Estates Commissioners under the provisions of this Act, or to said tenants under the provisions of the Land Purchase Acts as amended by this Act. And if a receiver has been appointed over the estate, or the estate is so circumstanced that it would, independently of this Act, be sold without the consent of the owner as to price, the provisions of Section 40 of the Act of 1896 shall have effect in regard to the estate in the same manner, and all proceedings under said Section 40 in regard to the estate shall be had and taken in the court of the Land Judge as if an absolute order for the sale of the estate had been made under the Landed Estates Court (Ireland) Act, 1858."—(*Mr. William Redmond.*)

Brought up, and read the first time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the clause be read a second time."

MR. WYNDHAM said he was conferring with the Lord Chancellor of England and the Lord Advocate for Scotland on the subject, and he hoped to arrive at a conclusion before the Report stage.

Motion, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. T. L. CORBETT (Down, N.) moved.

New clauses (Labourers representation, Repeal and Interpretation)—

"In page 37, after clause 84, to insert the following clauses:—Where it appears to the Local Government Board that the labourers are not sufficiently represented on any rural district council in any county, the Local Government Board may nominate any number of persons not exceeding three to act with the rural sanitary authority for the purposes of carrying out the Labourers (Ireland) Acts. And such person or persons shall be appointed for such term as the Local Government Board may think fit, not exceeding three years, and shall have all the powers of the elected members of the rural sanitary authority. Provided, however, that the Local Government Board shall have power at any time to remove any such person or persons without filling up the vacancy caused by such removal. Section 3 of the Labourers (Ireland) Act, 1891, is hereby repealed. A representation under the Labourers (Ireland) Acts shall mean a representation signed by not less than six persons, each one of whom must either be rated for the relief of the poor within the sanitary district or be included in the definition of an agricultural labourer contained in this Act."—(*Mr. T. L. Corbett.*)

Brought up, and read the first time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the clauses be read a second time," put, and agreed to.

*MR. LONSDALE said as the Chief Secretary had appealed to them to allow the Bill to pass through Committee to-night he hardly liked to take upon himself the responsibility for entering upon a statement of the reasons why this Amendment should be accepted. If the right hon. Gentleman could not accept it now he would bring it up on the Report stage.

New clause (Trinity College and Church perpetuity leases)—

"Holders of land under ecclesiastical perpetuity leases and Trinity College leases may apply to the Land Commission to have their rents reduced proportionately to the reductions of rent granted to their tenants; and the Land Commission shall reduce such rents accordingly, and shall, in the case of any holding subject to a judicial rent fixed or agreed to before the passing of the Act of 1896, make a further reduction of 10 per cent. on the rent payable for such holding."—(*Mr. Lonsdale.*)

Brought up, and read the first time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the clause be read a second time."

MR. WYNDHAM said he could not accept the clause as proposed. He therefore thought the best course to pursue was for the hon. Member to give notice of the Amendment for the Report stage. Between now and the Report stage he would discuss the question with the hon. Member.

MR. FLAVIN said there was a strong feeling in many parts of Ireland on this question.

Question put, and negatived.

Mr. TULLY moved the following new clause, of which Mr. Healy had given notice.

New clause (Compulsory acquisition of land)—

"Where any land or easement sold under the provisions of the Land Purchase Acts is required by any local authority under any Act enabling such authority compulsorily to acquire same, no appeal shall lie from any order of the Local Government Board sanctioning the acquisition of such land under the Labourers (Ireland) Acts, the Public Health (Ireland) Acts, or the Local Government (Ireland) Acts, and the decision of the Judge of Assize under Section 10, Sub-section 3 (d) of the Local Government (Ireland) Act, 1898, shall be final except when the order therein referred to is refused."—(*Mr. Tully.*)

Brought up, and read the first time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the clause be read a second time."

Mr. WYNDHAM expressed the hope that as the hon. Member for North Louth was not present the hon. Member for South Leitrim would be satisfied if he agreed that this should be considered on Report.

Motion, by leave, withdrawn.

Mr. TULLY moved the following new clause, of which the hon. Member for South Meath had given notice.

New clause (Covenants against tillage)—

"Where by reason of any covenant expressed or implied the tenant of a holding (other than demesne lands) is restricted from tilling or meadowing the whole or any portion thereof, such covenant is hereby declared void and of no effect, and the tenant of every such holding shall be entitled to any advance which under Section 1 of this Act may be made to any other occupier."—(*Mr. Tully.*)

Brought up, and read the first time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the clause be read a second time."

Mr. WYNDHAM appealed to the hon. Member to acquiesce in the self-denying ordinance and not press the Amendment.

Motion, by leave, withdrawn.

Mr. WILLIAM REDMOND said he would not move the new clause on the Notice Paper in regard to labourers' allotments, as he understood the Chief Secretary was going to deal with the question in the House on the first favourable opportunity.

Mr. WYNDHAM indicated that that was his intention.

Sir JOHN ROLLESTON (Leicester) moved a new clause dealing with the question of the expenses of negotiation between landlord and tenant in sales of land. He was proceeding to state reasons in support of the clause when

Mr. DILLON interposed and stated that the self-denying ordinance should apply to this question, where the interests of land agents were concerned, as well as to a question where the interests of the labourers were involved.

Mr. WYNDHAM said the question of the labourers had been discussed. The case of the land agents had not been discussed, but he could not go in regard to them beyond the undertaking he had already given in regard to the labourers. He recognised that the Act would not work smoothly unless the feelings of the land agents were considered; but that was a point which might be held over until the Report stage.

Sir JOHN ROLLESTON said he should detain the Committee for only a few minutes. He was sorry that the position of the land agents had not been brought forward by an Irish Member, but he thought it right to call attention to it, as he had the honour of being last year the President of a society of which the Irish land agents were members. The opinion of that institution on any question of the administration of land must carry weight with it in this House, and the members of that institution were entirely in agreement with the Amendment he now proposed. This Bill was unique in land legislation, and he might be allowed to say that it displayed broad-minded statesmanship. He hoped that the expectations formed of it in promoting the peace and prosperity of Ireland would be abundantly fulfilled.

But, if the carrying out of this state policy did injury to a great profession in Ireland, the members of that profession ought to receive consideration at the hands of the Government and the Irish Party. [Loud cries of "Divide."] He recognised that the feeling of the Committee was against him, and he would only say in conclusion that he trusted the Bill would settle the Irish land difficulty without doing any injustice to a great and deserving class like the land agents.

New clause (Expenses of negotiation)—

"In page 22, after Clause 43, to insert the following clause:—'After making or providing for the prescribed payments to vendors selling direct to their tenants, there shall, in respect of any such sale, be paid out of the Land Purchase Aid Fund to the Estates Commissioners, a sum not exceeding three per cent. on the purchase money of the estate, which sum or such less sum as may seem reasonable, having regard to all the circumstances of the case, shall be paid by them to the land agent negotiating the sale of such estate.'"—(*Sir John Rolleston.*)

Brought up, and read the first time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the clause be read a second time,"

MR. WYNDHAM said that the hon. Member was mistaken in thinking that the Committee was unwilling to hear him, or that they were insensible to the value of the services rendered by the land agents. The reason why some impatience had been shown was because he had made a personal appeal to all sections of the Committee not to press Amendments, and hon. Members having responded to that appeal, it was thought that any other Amendment, however important, should not be pressed on their attention. He had already suggested that the allocation of the bonus should be discussed on the first Schedule.

Question put, and negatived.

THE SCHEDULES.

Amendment proposed—

"In Schedule 1, page 39, to leave out lines 3 to 14 inclusive, and insert the words 'Twelve per cent. on amount of purchase money advanced under Land Purchase Acts.'"—(*Mr. Wyndham.*)

MR. WYNDHAM said that various suggestions had been made as to the proper allocation of the bonus. Those who desired to see justice done in all cases had approached the question from different points of view. He had attempted a rough-and-ready method of approaching a difficult question. The Committee did not know the particular circumstances of each transaction. Perhaps, therefore, the better plan was to mete out the bonus on equal terms all round—viz., 12 per cent. addition to the money advanced on each transaction. It was to be hoped that all those who had to deal with the money and the disposition of the bonus would take into account the claims of those whose co-operation was necessary if land purchase was to be a success. He believed that in making this proposal he was doing justice in the case.

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the schedule."

MR. DILLON said he fully recognised that it was impossible to discuss fully this very important matter at that period of the evening. Of course the subject was not closed, but would remain open at the Report stage, and he urged the right hon. Gentleman not to close his mind on this subject. The hon. Member for Waterford had an Amendment on the Paper proposing a sliding scale as the most just way of disposing of the bonus. His own plan was that a bonus should be given in the shape of three years' purchase of the rental to every landlord who sold. He would illustrate the absurd results which would follow from the Chief Secretary's scheme of distributing all round a bonus of 12 per cent. on the money advanced. Take the case of an estate in the province of Ulster or Munster where the purchase-money would amount to twenty years' purchase of the rental; the landlord would obtain a bonus of £12,000, but on a similar estate in the province of Connaught, where the holdings were poor, the purchase-money would only be fifteen years' purchase of the rental, and the landlord would obtain a bonus of only £9,000. That showed the absurdity of the Chief Secretary's plan. The only justification for the bonus was to fill up the gap between what the tenants could afford to pay, and what the landlords would receive for selling. Under the Chief Secretary's proposal, the bulk of the money would go to the richest parts of Ireland, and the lesser amount to the poorest parts. The injustice of that was manifest. He could hardly conceive that the Government would persist in that course, and he respectfully hoped that they would re-consider this question, which would be again raised on Report.

MR. WHITLEY (Halifax) said he would urge upon the Chief Secretary to re-consider this matter before the Report stage from the point of view of the general taxpayer. Hitherto, those who represented the general taxpayer had cheerfully acquiesced in the payment of the bulk, at any rate, of this bonus of £12,000,000, distinctly on the understanding that it was to facilitate the poorer class of Irish landlords in transferring their estates to their tenants; but if the bonus was to be distributed according to the new scheme, it would mean that a larger share of the bonus would be given to the rich landlords and the smaller share to the poor landlords.

MR. WYNDHAM said he thought the two speeches to which they had just listened illustrated the difficulty of dealing with the bonus. The fact was, land purchase in Ireland was not simply a matter between landlord and tenant; it was much more complex. He had suggested originally that help should be given in a larger measure, not to poor landlords, but to small properties, which was a very different thing, as the man with the large property was sometimes poorer than the man with the small property, because his mortgages pressed more heavily upon him than the man with the small property. The hon. and learned Member for York and the hon. Member for Leicester thought that land purchase would not be a success unless the land-agents were dealt with. The fact that there were three or four points of view from which the distribution of the bonus might be approached, proved, at any rate, the necessity for the bonus, and for the life of him he could not hit on a better suggestion, in view of the various difficulties which existed, than that the bonus should be dealt out equally all round, and that all parties should treat each other with reason and consideration.

MR. T. P. O'CONNOR said he wished to offer a word of warning to the Chief Secretary. The Irish Members did not think the arrangement the right hon. Gentleman proposed was satisfactory, because, in their opinion, it violated the very principle he himself had laid down—viz., the principle of equality. In other words, by the right hon Gentleman's scheme, much was given to him that had, and little was given to him that had not. He thought that the bonus ought to be an inducement to the landlord to give fair terms to the tenants, and not be an inducement to them to make better terms out of their tenants. He considered that the bonus under the Chief Secretary's scheme would press most hardly on the poorer estates and on the poorer tenants. It must be understood that if they allowed this Amendment to pass through that evening, it was not because they approved of it.

Question put, and negatived.

Question "That those words be there inserted," put, and agreed to.

Schedule, as amended, agreed to.

Second Schedule agreed to.

Bill reported; as amended, to be considered upon Monday next, and to be printed. [Bill 269.]

METROPOLITAN STREETS BILL.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[MR. J. W. LOWTHER (Cumberland, Penrith) in the Chair.]

MR. CALDWELL (Lanarkshire, Mid) asked if the Bill had been read a second time.

*THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT (Mr. AKERS-DOUGLAS, Kent, St. Augustine's) said it was read a second time the night before last.

MR. CALDWELL said that the Under-Secretary for the Home Department was talking to him at the time, and he did not hear the question put from the Chair. It was always inconvenient for Members of the Government to talk to hon. Members, more especially when one of their own Bills was being passed.

*THE UNDER SECRETARY TO THE HOME OFFICE (Mr. COCHRANE, Ayrshire, N.) said it was quite unintentional on his part.

MR. CALDWELL said no doubt it was. The Bill purported to deal with an object which was very laudable in itself, namely, the question of collections in the public streets for charitable and other purposes. It proposed to empower the police, with the consent of the Home Secretary, to make certain regulations with regard to the places at and conditions under which money might be collected for charitable purposes in the streets. The object the Home Secretary had in view was that no person should be allowed to collect money in the streets who had not a right to collect it; but when he looked into the Bill that was not the object it would effect. It did not deal with the question as to whether a person had or had not a right to collect money for charitable purposes; but it went back upon the Metropolitan Streets Act, which dealt entirely with the management of the streets and the control of the traffic. Section 11 of the Metropolitan Streets Act, to which the Bill referred, and which it was proposed to extend as to the making of regulations to be observed by all persons with respect to the places at and conditions under which money was to be collected in the streets, dealt entirely with the management of the streets, and not with the purpose for which a person might be on the streets and referred only to a special district, namely, that within four miles of Charing Cross. The section referred entirely to the control of traffic and to the power of diverting traffic, and had no reference whatever to the case of a person collecting money. The object of the Bill might be particularly good, namely, that no person should be allowed on the streets on a begging excursion without some guarantee that it was *bonâ fide*, and that the public were not being defrauded. But that could not be provided merely by reference to an Act of Parliament which dealt entirely with the regulation of traffic. The only power which the Bill would confer would be the power to regulate where a man might stand. The Bill had no reference whatever to the object for which a person might be collecting. The Bill assumed that the collection was for a charitable purpose, and therefore the theory that this was a Bill to find out whether a collector was *bonâ fide* or not was destroyed. The Bill assumed he was a *bonâ fide* collector; and it proposed, without any justification, to interfere with persons who were admittedly collecting for a charitable purpose. Section 11 of the Metropolitan Streets Act had reference solely to the position which a man might occupy in the streets, and it referred only to a particular district.

*THE CHAIRMAN: The hon. Gentleman is not entitled to repeat the arguments he has already used.

MR. CALDWELL said he was turning the argument in a different way. If a person were collecting for a *bonâ fide* charitable purpose, on what ground was he to be interfered with? If it was for the convenience of the public, the existing law provided a remedy. Was it to be laid down that a man collecting, for instance, on Hospital Saturday should stand in a particular spot and should not move from it? He did not see why such a laudable object should be interfered with. It was the small sums that were put into the boxes in the streets that mounted up. He thought they had a right to complain that the Second Reading of the Bill was passed without a word of explanation. He did not think that was the way to carry a Bill through the House. They had a right to have had a candid statement as to the object of the Bill, and then they would know where they stood. In the absence of all explanation, he did not think the Committee should agree to the clause, all the more as the Bill would not carry out the object in view. They ought not to impose any restrictions on *bonâ fide* collectors which would interfere with the benevolence of the public as long as the collectors did not cause an obstruction. He thought the Bill was totally uncalled for, and that it would be invalid.

MR. LOUGH (Islington, W.) said he thought the Committee were indebted to the hon. Member for Mid Lanark for the interest he had taken in the matter. He thought the complaint of the hon. Gentleman was not altogether unreasonable. He should like to ask one or two questions of the Home Secretary. The right hon. Gentleman asked for powers to exercise authority which would not be exercised in any other city. He did not think the right hon. Gentleman should ask for such powers without telling the Committee what new and grave reasons had arisen to justify them. These powers were to be conferred on the right hon. Gentleman and his successors at the Home Office. They might have perfect confidence in the right hon. Gentleman, but what about his successors? He thought there was really some ground for suspicion. The powers under the Metropolitan Streets Act were to be exercised with the consent of the Common Council of the City, which was the only representative body in existence when the Act was passed in 1867. Now they had the London County Council, and the Borough Councils. Were they to be consulted?

*MR. AKERS DOUGLAS said there was no intention whatever of rushing the Bill through the House. He was under the impression that it was an agreed Bill; and it was introduced in answer to a general request made during the discussion of the Police Estimates a few months ago. The hon. Member for Kirkcaldy Burghs, the hon. Member for Battersea, and other hon. Members urged him to bring in a Bill dealing with this question. All it proposed was to give the Commissioners of the Metropolitan and City Police powers, subject, outside the City, to the sanction of the Home Secretary, who was responsible to this House, to issue regulations dealing with this question. During the discussion on the Estimates it was pointed out that this begging in the streets was very undesirable, and ought to be put down. Hon. Members complained of collecting boxes being held up before pedestrians, and also of the great obstruction which was caused in the streets; and it was felt to be desirable that the police should have power to deal with this matter. It was with this view that the Bill was brought in; and he thought it would be regarded as an agreed measure. The Bill, although it was a small one, was necessary for London, and was desired not only by hon. Members, but by the London County Council.

MR. WHITLEY (Halifax) said they were all agreed that the object of the Bill was a good one; but they were not agreed that it proposed the best method of achieving that object.

And, it being Midnight, the Chairman left the Chair to make his Report to the House.

Committee report Progress; to sit again to-morrow.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.

SIR A. ACLAND-HOOD (Somersetshire, Wellington) said, in moving the adjournment of the House, that in consequence of representations from the Leader of the Opposition the Scotch Licensing Bill would not be taken until Monday. The Naval Works Bill would be the first order on Friday, and would be followed by the Employment of Children Bill.

MR. PATRICK O'BRIEN (Kilkenny) asked if the hon. Gentleman could say when the Report stage of the Irish Land Bill would be taken.

SIR A. ACLAND-HOOD said he could not say that.

Adjourned at five minutes after Twelve o'clock.

An Asterisk (*) at the commencement of a Speech indicates revision by the Member.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Thursday, 9*th July*, 1903.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

The LORD CHANCELLOR acquainted the House that the Clerk of the Parliaments had laid upon the Table the Certificate from the Examiners that the further Standing Orders applicable to the following Bill have been complied with:—Gateshead Corporation.

And also the Certificate that the further Standing Orders applicable to the following Bill have not been complied with:—

Ulster and Connaught Light Railways.

The same were ordered to lie on the Table.

London County Council (Tramways and Improvements) Bill. A witness ordered to attend the Select Committee.

Hastings Tramways (Extensions) Bill [H.L.]. Commons Amendments considered, and agreed to.

London County Council (General Powers) Bill. Reported from the Select Committee, with Amendments.

Baker Street and Waterloo Railway (Transfer) Bill. Reported with Amendments.

Brighton Corporation Bill [H.L.]. The King's consent signified; and Bill reported from the Select Committee, with Amendments.

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 5) Bill. Leave given to the Select Committee to adjourn over to-morrow, and not to sit till twelve o'clock on Monday next.

North Metropolitan Electric Power Supply Bill [H.L.]. Read 2^a.

Erith Tramways and Improvement Bill. Moved, That the order made on the 16th day of March last, "That no Private Bill brought from the House of Commons shall be read a second time after the 18th day of June next," be dispensed with, and that the Bill be now read 2^a; agreed to; Bill read 2^a accordingly, and committed: The Committee to be proposed by the Committee of Selection.

Jewish Colonisation Association Bill [H.L.]. Returned from the Commons agreed to.

Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 7) Bill; Returned from the Commons, with the Amendment agreed to.

Hampton Court Gas Bill, Charing Cross, Euston, and Hampstead Railway Bill. Returned from the Commons with the Amendments agreed to.

Aberdeen Corporation Tramways Order Confirmation Bill [H.L.] (No. 161.). A Bill to confirm a Provisional Order relating to Aberdeen Corporation Tramways; and Perth Corporation (Tramways) Order Confirmation Bill [H.L.] (No. 162.). A Bill to confirm a Provisional Order relating to Perth Corporation (Tramways), were presented by the Lord Balfour; read 1^a; to be printed; and (pursuant to the Private Legislation Procedure (Scotland) Act, 1899, section 7), deemed to have been read 2^a; and reported from the Committee.

Local Government Provisional Order (No. 16) Bill. Amendments reported (according to Order), and Bill to be read 3^a to-morrow.

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 9) Bill. Committee of the Whole House (which stands appointed for this day) put off to Tuesday next.

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 17) Bill; Local Government Provisional Order (No. 18) Bill. House in Committee (according to Order); Bills reported without Amendment; Standing Committee negatived; and Bills to be read 3^a to-morrow.

Pier and Harbour Provisional Orders (No. 2) Bill; Pier and Harbour Provisional Orders (No. 3) Bill; Pier and Harbour Provisional Orders (No. 4) Bill; Pier and Harbour Provisional Orders (No. 5) Bill; Pier and Harbour

Provisional Orders (No. 6) Bill. Moved, That the Order made on the 16th of March last, " That no Provisional Order Confirmation Bill brought from the House of Commons shall be read a second time after Thursday the 18th day of June next," be dispensed with, and that the Bills be now read 2ª; agreed to; Bills read 2ª accordingly, and committed to a Committee of the Whole House to-morrow.

London County Council (Tramways and Improvements) Bill. The order made on the 23rd of June last appointing certain Lords the Select Committee to consider the Bill, discharged.

London County Council (Tramways and Improvements) Bill; Metropolitan Police Provisional Order Bill; London United Tramways Bill; Harrow Road and Paddington Tramways Bill; South Shields Corporation Bill; Dublin, Wicklow, and Wexford Railway Bill; Ebbw Vale Water and Improvement Bill; Western Valleys (Monmouthshire) Sewerage Board Bill; Report from the Committee of Selection, That the following Lords be proposed to the House to form the Select Committee for the consideration of the said Bills—viz.,

E. Waldegrave,
E. Powis,
L. Kilmaine,
L. Harris (chairman).
L. Lyveden

Agreed to; and the said Lords appointed accordingly: The Committee to meet on Monday next, at Twelve o'clock; and all petitions referred to the Committee, with leave to the petitioners praying to be heard by counsel against the Bills to be heard as desired, as also counsel for the Bills.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

TREATY SERIES No. 10 (1903).

Commercial Convention between the United Kingdom and Persia; signed at Tehran, 9th February, 1903 (ratifications exchanged at Tehran, 27th May, 1903); signed also in the Persian text.

TRADE REPORTS (ANNUAL SERIES).

No. 3020. Italy.
No. 3021. France (Pondicherry and Karikal).
No. 3022. Italy (Central Italy).
No. 3023. China (Foochow).
No. 3024. Portugal (Beira).

MISCELLANEOUS SERIES.

No. 594. Germany (agricultural instruction in Germany and the development of German agriculture and agricultural industries).

FISHERIES (SCOTLAND).

Report of inquiry as to herring fishery in the Firth of Clyde, etc.

ARMY.

Letter from General Officer Commanding the Forces in South Africa transmitting the proceedings of a Board of Officers assembled to report upon certain supplies of "meat and vegetable" rations at Pretoria considered to be unfit for issue.

PATRIOTIC FUND.

Forty-first Report of the Royal Commissioners.

CUSTOMS (TARIFF).

Translation of the Proposed New General Customs Tariff for Austria-Hungary, with comparison, as far as possible, of the rates of Customs duty contained in the proposed tariff with the rates at present in force on imports into Austria Hungary from the United Kingdom.

Presented (by Command) and ordered to lie on the Table.

CERTIFIED INEBRIATE REFORMATORIES (REGULATIONS FOR MANAGEMENT).

Regulations, made with the approval of the Secretary of State for the Home Department, for the management and discipline of the certified inebriate reformatories at Lewes and Chesterfield; Brentry and Horfield.

Laid before the House (pursuant to Act) and ordered to lie on the Table.

BOARD OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES BILL [H.L.].

Read 3ª (according to Order), and passed and sent to the Commons.

PUBLIC OFFICES (DUBLIN) BILL.

Brought from the Commons. Read 1ª; to be printed; and referred to the Examiners. (No. 163.)

PISTOLS BILL.

[SECOND READING.]

Order of the day for the Second Reading read.

*THE EARL OF DONOUGHMORE: My Lords, I shall not detain your Lordships more than a few minutes in asking you to give a Second Reading to this extremely useful little Bill, which has been brought in in the interests of the public safety and has for its object the prevention of pistols falling into improper hands. This is by no means a new Bill. Since 1888 this question has been continually before Parliament, but the failure of previous Bills has been solely due to the fact that they have been too extreme, and have endeavoured to go too far. This was notably the case with the Bill which was introduced in 1893 by the Government of that day. The Bill now before your Lordships, however, is an extremely moderate one. I do not think there can be any question as to the necessity for some such measure as this. Six weeks ago there was a murder trial at the Old Bailey, the crime being entirely due to a pistol having got into improper hands. I refer to the Blackheath murder. In that case a pawnbroker sold a pistol to a man who was deeply intoxicated, and it resulted, first, in the severe wounding of a policeman, and, secondly, in the death of a man who went to the assistance of the policeman. The remarks of Mr. Justice Grantham at the trial were very strong. Addressing the pawnbroker who had sold the loaded pistol to the prisoner, he said—

> "In my judgment you ought to be in that dock charged with manslaughter. When a man loads a revolver for another who is drunk, and that man goes and shoots another, it is a serious question whether the man who loads the revolver is not guilty of manslaughter."

I think your Lordships will agree with that view. But in this Bill I do not ask you to make him liable to conviction for manslaughter but merely that he should be liable to a fine of £25.

There is a great volume of public opinion behind this Bill. The hon. Member who introduced it in another place has received a letter from the Coroners' Society of England and Wales, regretting that the Government Bill of 1893 was withdrawn and earnestly hoping that this Bill will receive the approval of Parliament. I have also a letter from Mr. Justice Bigham, which, I think, broadly explains the whole position. He says—

> "I have had to try boys for offences arising out of the use of cheap toy pistols. In one case death had resulted, and the boy was convicted of manslaughter. I think I can safely say that every other Judge on the Bench has had similar experience. Judges have frequently suggested that some means ought to be adopted for regulating the sale of these weapons and juries have also spoken in the same tone."

I also hold in my hand a report of an interview with the Birmingham Stipendiary Magistrate in which he expresses the hope that nothing will be done to prevent this Bill passing into law. Further, I would remind your Lordships that a distinguished Member of the other House—Mr. Herbert Gladstone—has left it on record that there is a pile of papers at the Home Office from Judges, coroners and other people strongly urging that some restrictive legislation should be passed in regard to pistols and toy pistols. So far as I know there is no opposition to the Bill from outside. The Gunmakers' Association of Birmingham were a little upset about one particular provision in the Bill as originally drafted, but this objection has been met by an Amendment which was introduced in the other House; and I have in my hand an article from the official newspaper of the trade welcoming the Bill as amended.

I will now briefly explain the provisions of the Bill. First of all, it enacts that a record shall be kept of all sales of pistols, this record to be open to the police; and in this connection I would again quote from the *Gunmakers' Journal*, which states that many gunmakers in point of fact do keep precisely such a register at the present moment. Secondly, the Bill enacts that whenever a person wishes to buy or hire a pistol he shall produce his game or gun licence. By incorporating certain sections of the Gun Act, 1870, this does not interfere in any way with cadet corps on the one hand, or with a householder on the other who wishes to buy a pistol to protect himself from burglars and for use inside his own house. Section 8 makes it clear that the provisions of the Bill shall not apply where an antique pistol is sold as a curiosity or ornament. Thirdly, the Bill enacts that it shall be illegal for a person under eighteen years of age to buy a pistol and illegal for a shopkeeper to sell a pistol to a person under eighteen, the penalty being a fine of £25. In all the previous Bills the penalty proposed has been £10. Fourthly, the Bill enacts that anyone selling a pistol to a person who is intoxicated or apparently insane shall be liable to a penalty of £5. That is the whole of the Bill, and I contend that it is incapable of causing any hardship to a single individual. It will be extremely simple in its working, and must have a very beneficial effect, and I trust your Lordships will give it a Second Reading.

Moved That the Bill be now read 2ª.—(*The Earl of Donoughmore.*)

LORD BELPER: My Lords, I have to say, on behalf of His Majesty's Government, that they are in entire sympathy with the object of this Bill. There is a large amount of evidence to show that not only have many accidents occurred, but many crimes have been committed in consequence of pistols being in the hands of irresponsible persons. As the noble Earl has said, this Bill is a considerable modification of previous Bills, and the Government see no reason why it should not be passed into law.

On Question, read 2ª (according to Order), and committed to a Committee of the Whole House to-morrow.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (TRANSFER OF POWERS) BILL.

On the Order to receive the Report of Amendments,

THE MARQUESS OF RIPON said: I was not able to be in the House the other day when the Bill was in Committee, but I was sorry to find that the noble Lord in charge of the Bill was not able to accede to the very reasonable request which was made to the Local Government Board by the West Riding County Council, and, I believe, by other bodies. I do not wish to raise the question again, except merely to say that I am afraid that in the working of the Bill considerable inconvenience will be experienced, especially in large counties like the West Riding, if a majority of one of the numerous smaller bodies mentioned in the clause is able to prevent the transfer to the County Council of very desirable powers. I would also like to ask the exact bearing of the words—

> "But without prejudice to the power of the Board to propose a new Order."

Does that mean that as soon as one Order has been rejected by a majority of one of the local authorities, the Local Government Board may introduce a new Order and go through the same process again in the hope that the local authorities may change their opinion?

LORD KENYON: I am not prepared to answer the Question without notice. But I would remind the noble Marquess that the section in question was introduced into the Bill to satisfy the local authorities.

THE MARQUESS OF RIPON: Yes, the small local authorities.

LORD KENYON: I do not think the Bill would be before your Lordships now if the section had not been inserted.

THE MARQUESS OF RIPON: If I am in the House when the Third Reading stage is taken, I will ask the noble Lord for an explanation of this point.

THE SECRETARY FOR SCOTLAND (Lord BALFOUR of BURLEIGH): The provision in question is by no means an unusual one. Without the words—

> "But without prejudice to the power of the Board to propose a new Order."

it might be held that an Order having been proposed and rejected, the power of the Local Government Board was altogether exhausted. The noble Marquess need have no apprehension that a Government Department is likely, out of pure obstinacy, to proceed again and again with the same Order.

THE MARQUESS OF RIPON: I fear the exact opposite.

LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH: In that case I do not see why the noble Marquess should object to the clause.

THE MARQUESS OF RIPON: I do not object. I only ask for an explanation.

Amendments reported (according to Order), and Bill to be read 3ª To-morrow.

LUNACY ACTS (AMENDMENT) LONDON BILL [H.L.].

On the Order to go into Committee on this Bill,

LORD BELPER said: Before the House goes into Committee, I wish to say that there are a number of points in the Bill—points of detail and with regard to machinery—which require consideration before it passes, and the Government may find it necessary to move Amendments at a later stage.

Bill reported without Amendment; and re-committed to the Standing Committee.

House adjourned at ten minutes before Five o'clock, till To-morrow, a quarter past Four o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Thursday, 9*th July*, 1903.

The House met at Two of the Clock.

THE CHAIRMAN OF WAYS AND MEANS.

The Clerk at the Table informed the House of the unavoidable absence of the Chairman of Ways and Means.

UNOPPOSED PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Nelson Corporation Bill; West Cumberland Electric Tramways Bill. Lords' Amendments considered, and agreed to.

Fishguard and Rosslare Railways and Harbours Bill (by Order). Lords' Amendments considered, and agreed to.

Hexham Gas Bill [Lords]; Nantwich Urban District Council Bill [Lords]; Sheffield and South Yorkshire Navigation Bill [Lords]; Torquay Corporation Water Bill [Lords]. Read the third time, and passed, with Amendments.

STANDING ORDERS.

Resolutions reported from the Select Committee.

1. "That, in the case of the Manchester Corporation Bill [Lords], the Standing Orders ought to be dispensed with:—That the parties be permitted to proceed with their Bill."

2. "That in the case of the Gosport and Fareham Tramways Bill [Lords], the Standing Orders ought to be dispensed with:—That the parties be permitted to proceed with their Bill."

3. "That in the case of the Bangor Corporation Bill [Lords], the Standing Orders ought to be dispensed with:—That the parties be permitted to proceed with their Bill."

4. "That in the case of the South Eastern and London, Chatham, and Dover Railways Bill [Lords], the Standing Orders ought to be dispensed with:—That the parties be permitted to proceed with their Bill, provided that Clause 30 and the Fourth Schedule be struck out of the Bill:—That the Committee on the Bill do report how far such Order has been complied with."

Resolutions agreed to.

Manchester Corporation Bill [Lords]. Report [this day] from the Select Committee on Standing Orders read.

Bill to be read a second time.

Gosport and Fareham Tramways Bill [Lords]. Report [this day] from the Select Committee on Standing Orders read.

Bill to be read a second time.

Manchester Southern Tramways Bill [Lords]. Reported, with Amendments; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

Railway Bills (Group 12). Mr. Ashton reported from the Committee on Group 12 of Railway Bills; That the Committee had adjourned till Monday next, at Twelve of the clock, there being no business ready.

Report to lie upon the Table.

Tramway Orders Confirmation (No. 2) Bill [Lords]. Copy ordered, "of Memorandum stating the nature of the Proposals contained in the Provisional Orders included in the Tramways Orders Confirmation (No. 2) Bill [Lords]."—(*Mr. Bonar Law.*)

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.

That they have agreed to—Guinea Postal Orders Bill; Hamilton Burgh Provisional Order Bill; Broughty Ferry Gas Provisional Order Bill, without Amendment.

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 14) Bill; Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 10) Bill, with Amendments.

That they have passed a Bill, intituled, "An Act to make further provisions for the foundation of a Dean and Chapter of Newcastle; and for other purposes connected therewith." [Newcastle Chapter (Amendment) Bill [Lords.]

Also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders made by the Board of Trade under the Tramways Act, 1870, relating to Burton-upon-Trent Corporation Tramways, Bury Corporation Tramways, Cardiff Corporation Tramways (Extension), Huddersfield Corporation Tramways, Leeds Corporation Tramways, Newcastle-upon-Tyne Corporation Tramways, and Portobello and Musselburgh Tramways." [Tramways Orders Confirmation (No. 1) Bill [Lords.]

And, also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act to confirm a Provisional Order made by the Board of Education, under the Education Acts, 1870 to 1902, to enable the School Board for London to put in force the Lands Clauses Acts." [Education Board Provisional Order Confirmation (London) Bill [Lords.]

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 14) Bill; Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 10) Bill. Lords Amendments to be considered To-morrow.

Tramways Orders Confirmation (No. 1) Bill [Lords.] Read the first time; Referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, and to be printed. [Bill 270.]

Education Board Provisional Order Confirmation (London) Bill [Lords.] Read the first time; Referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills and to be printed. [Bill 271.]

PETITIONS.

CHURCH DISCIPLINE BILL.

Petition from Streatham, against; to lie upon the Table.

LICENCES RENEWAL AND TRANSFER BILL.

Petition from Cumberland, against; to lie upon the Table.

PLUMBERS' REGISTRATION BILL.

Petition from Glasgow and the West of Scotland, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS ON SUNDAY BILL.

Petitions in favour: from Falmouth; Bristol; Flushing; and Penwerris; to lie upon the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

IRISH LAND COMMISSION.

Copy presented of Report of the Commissioners for the period from 1st April, 1902, to 31st March, 1903 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE (ENGLAND, SCOTLAND, AND IRELAND).

Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 17th March—*Mr. Lough*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 248.]

TREATY SERIES (NO 10, 1903.)

Copy presented of Commercial Convention between the United Kingdom and Persia. Signed at Tehran, 9th February, 1903. Ratifications exchanged at Tehran, 27th May, 1903 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

INEBRIATE REFORMATORIES (REGULATIONS).

Copy presented of Regulations made with the approval of the Secretary of State for the Home Department for the management and discipline of the certified Inebriate Reformatories at Lewes and Chesterfield [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

INEBRIATE REFORMATORIES (REGULATIONS).

Copy presented of amended Regulations made with the approval of the Secretary of State for the Home Department for the management and discipline of the certified Inebriate Reformatories at Brentry and Horfield [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

FISHERIES (SCOTLAND).

Copy presented of Report of Inquiry as to Herring Fishery in the Firth of Clyde, etc. [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

Irrigation by State Canals in India.

MR. WEIR (Ross and Cromarty): To ask the Secretary of State for India if he will quote figures showing how the area irrigated by State canals in each province of India for the year 1901–2 compares with the year 1891–1892.

(*Answered by Secretary Lord George Hamilton.*) The area of land irrigated by State canals in each province of India for the years 1891–1892 and 1901–1902 was as follows—

	1891–2. Acres.	1901–2. Acres.
Burma - - -	Nil.	440,046
Bengal - - -	742,346	841,126
United Provinces of Agra and Oudh -	2,046,400	2,617,457
Punjab - - -	3,067,336	4,494,945
Madras - - -	2,413,501	3,550,036
Bombay - - -	1,322,224	1,943,864
North West Frontier Province - - -	†	157,829
Baluchistan - -	7,732	7,712
Rajputana - -	11,947	23,984
Total - -	9,611,486	14,076,999

† Included under Punjab.

Indian Agricultural Banks Committee—Report.

MR. WEIR: To ask the Secretary of State for India if he will state when the Report of the Committee on Agricultural banks will be laid upon the Table of the House; and will care be taken that the places where these banks have been established are indicated.

(*Answered by Secretary Lord George Hamilton.*) The Papers are in the printer's hands, and will be ready in a few days. As I stated in my answer of the 2nd July, any banks which have been started are on a purely experimental footing, and the information given in the papers as to the localities where the experiment is being tried is therefore necessarily of a general character.

Whitehill Light—Safety of Fishermen.

MR. CATHCART WASON (Orkney and Shetland): To ask the Lord Advocate if, in the event of it being found impossible to erect the Whitehill Light before the winter, temporary arrangements will be made for the convenience and safety of the fishermen.

(*Answered by Mr. A. Graham Murray.*) I am informed that there is no reason to doubt that the Whitehill Light will be ready and available before the winter.

Fisheries Commissioner and Orkney County Council.

MR. CATHCART WASON: To ask the Lord Advocate if his attention has been directed to the Petition from the Orkney County Council praying that effect may be given to the recommendation of the Fisheries Commissioner; and, if so, will he state what steps he proposes to take thereon.

(*Answered by Mr. A. Graham Murray.*) Certain aspects of the question affecting sea trout fishing in Orkney have been engaging the attention of the Secretary for Scotland. The Petition referred to by the hon. Member has also been received and will be duly considered.

Imports of Manufactured Steel and Iron into Great Britain.

SIR THOMAS WRIGHTSON (St. Pancras, E.): To ask the President of the Board of Trade what is the weight and value of manufactured steel and iron which has been imported into British ports from 1st January to 30th June this year, and the same information with regard to the four previous half-years, also the ports at which the material has been delivered and the country from which it has been sent.

(*Answered by Mr. Bonar Law.*) The following are the particulars required, so far as regards the weight and value of manufactured and partly manufactured steel and iron imported into the United Kingdom during the periods mentioned:—

	Weight Tons.	Value. £
Half-year to—		
30 June 1903	592,000	4,045,000
31 Dec. 1902	581,000	4,063,000
30 June 1902	552,000	3,873,000
31 Dec. 1901	540,000	4,147,000
30 June 1901	384,000	3,414,000

The further information which the hon. Member requires, as to the ports at which the material has been delivered and the countries from which it has been sent, will be prepared and sent to him as soon as ready.

Dr. Knaggs—Practice at Kobé.

MR. WEIR: To ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he has yet received from His Majesty's Consul at Kobé an explanation in regard to the circumstances under which he failed to assist Dr. Knaggs of Kobé to obtain a certificate from the Japanese authorities to enable him to practise his profession at Kobé, especially having regard to the fact that Dr. Knaggs was accredited to the British Consul by the Premier and Chief Secretary of State of New South Wales as having held Government appointments in that State.

(*Answered by Lord Cranborne.*) The Report has not yet been received.

Suakim-Berber Railway.

MR. HARWOOD (Bolton): To ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs if any consideration is being given to the advisability of making the Suakim-Berber Railway in the interest of Trade in the Soudan generally, and particularly to encourage the growth of cotton.

(*Answered by Lord Cranborne.*) It will be seen on reference to Lord Cromer's Reports on Egypt and the Soudan (Egypt, No. 1, 1903, pp. 15, 73, and 94–96), that the most attentive consideration has been given to the advisability of making a railway from Berber to Suakim, and that the Egyptian authorities are fully alive to its importance in the interests of commerce generally and of the cotton trade in particular. In a despatch just received, Lord Cromer reports that notwithstanding many financial and engineering difficulties substantial progress has been made with the necessary preliminaries, and that when the work is commenced, which will soon be the case, it will be pushed forward as rapidly as possible.

Elementary Schools—Limit of Size.

SIR JOHN GORST (Cambridge University): To ask the Secretary to the Board of Education if there is a limit laid down to the size of an elementary school; what that limit, if any, is; in what cases, if any, has sanction been given during the last twelve months to schools exceeding the limit.

(*Answered by Sir William Anson.*) The Board of Education have prescribed no limit of size for an elementary school; but in a note to the last edition of the Building Rules published in the autumn of last year, have recommended that no school should ordinarily be built to accommodate more than 1,000 to 1,200 children, to be arranged in three departments, and that no single department should accommodate more than 400 children. Sanction has been given for special reasons during the last twelve months to some eighteen schools where these numbers were to any large extent exceeded

Sanitary Condition of Post Office at 10 Oxford Street.

MR. PATRICK O'BRIEN (Kilkenny): To ask the Postmaster-General whether his attention has been drawn to the sanitary condition of the postal telegraph office at 10 Oxford Street, W.; whether he is aware that the water has oozed through the ceilings to the discomfort of the staff and the public who transact business at the counter; and, if so, whether he will state when the lease of the premises will expire.

(*Answered by Mr. Austen Chamberlain.*) The sanitary condition of the branch post office at 10 Oxford Street is generally satisfactory, though the accommodation is admittedly small. The leakage referred to was caused by injury to a water pipe, which was repaired as soon as possible. The lease of the premises expired at Christmas last, and the occupation is being continued temporarily pending the completion of arrangements for a removal to No. 70.

Auxiliary Postmen—Increased Wages and Retiring Allowance.

CAPTAIN DONELAN (Cork Co., E.): To ask the Postmaster-General whether he will favourably consider the claim of auxiliary postmen to an increase of wages and to retiring allowance when unfit for further duties owing to old age or ill-health.

(*Answered by Mr. Austen Chamberlain.*) The pay of auxiliary postmen is fixed according to the wages current in the district, and I am not prepared to alter this practice. Auxiliary postmen are employed for a portion of their time only, and are consequently not eligible for pension or gratuity under the Superannuation Acts.

New Post Office at Belturbet.

MR. M'GOVERN (Cavan, W.): To ask the Postmaster-General what steps have been taken to provide a new post office for Belturbet; are the plans ready; where can a copy of them be seen; and when will building operations commence.

(*Answered by Mr. Austen Chamberlain.*) The acquisition of a site, in the Diamond, for a new post office at Belturbet has been arranged, but its completion has been delayed by the death of the vendor. It is hoped, however, that the matter will be completed shortly. Plans for the new building have been approved, and it is proposed to begin building during the current financial year.

Telegraphists' Maximum Salary.

MR. JAMES O'CONNOR (Wicklow, W.): To ask the Postmaster-General whether he is aware that entrants into the telegraphic service in Edinburgh, Dublin, and London for a number of years were promised by the Civil Service Commissioners that ordinary telegraphists should have a prospect of rising to £190 per annum; and whether, seeing that in consequence of the existence of classification between the general body and the £190 class the majority of telegraphists cannot hope to reach this salary, he will state what steps he is prepared to take in order that the present telegraphists may not be worse off than their predecessors.

(*Answered by Mr. Austen Chamberlain.*) As regards London, I beg to refer the hon. Member to the answer which I gave on this subject on the 25th ultimo.[†] I have no intention of reconsidering the matter. As regards Dublin and Edinburgh, I am not aware that a prospect of rising to £190 was ever promised by the Civil Service Commissioners to any candidates for appointment at these places.

Uniform for Postman J. Black.

MR. JAMES O'CONNOR: To ask the Postmaster-General whether he is aware that J. Black, postman at Bo'ness, North Britain, has been unable, despite repeated official applications, to get any uniform supplied to him since his return from the war in August last; and whether any compensation will be granted to this postman for the use of his private clothing.

(*Answered by Mr. Austen Chamberlain.*) I have no information upon this subject, but I will make inquiry.

Pauper Funerals—Payment for Extra Charges.

MR. SOARES (Devonshire, Barnstaple): To ask the President of the Local Government Board whether he is aware that the overseers of Hartland, in North Devon, in conformity with instructions received from the clerk of the Bideford Board of Guardians, interred a dead body which had been washed ashore at Melford beach; that in such cases the contractor for pauper funerals is unable to do the work at the ordinary cost and is obliged to charge an extra guinea; and whether, seeing that the Bideford Board of Guardians have no power to refund this money to the overseers, he will state whether under such circumstances the overseers are expected to pay the extra cost out of their own pockets, or, if not, to whom ought the overseers to look for its repayment.

[†] See (4) *Debates*, cxxiv., 547.

(*Answered by Mr. Walter Long.*) I am aware of the matter referred to in the Question. I am not empowered to determine what course the overseers should take in cases of this kind, but I think their attention might be drawn to Section 6 of 48 Geo. 3, c. 75, which provides that for the purpose of reimbursing the overseers for all necessary and proper expenses incurred in the execution of the Act, a justice of the peace for the county in which the body is buried may direct the county treasurer to pay to the overseers such sums as to the justice may seem reasonable and proper.

Orphan and Deserted Children.

MR. HARWOOD: To ask the President of the Local Government Board if he can state how many orphan and deserted children there are amongst the 52,804 who are entirely dependent upon the rates, and amongst the 22,240 who are at present maintained in workhouses and workhouse infirmaries.

(*Answered by Mr. Walter Long.*) Fifty-two thousand eight hundred and four is the total number of children classed as in receipt of indoor relief on the 1st January, 1902. It includes not only children in establishments belonging to the guardians but also those in hospitals and other institutions where the cost of their maintenance is borne by the guardians. Of this number 34,506 were orphans or children relieved without their parents. The corresponding numbers for the 1st January, 1903, are 54,493 and 35,620. Of the children in workhouses, infirmaries and sick asylums on the 1st January, 1903, 10,356 were orphans or children relieved without their parents.

Appeals in County Longford.

MR. J. P. FARRELL (Longford, N.): To ask Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland to state the reason for reducing the number of appeals in County Longford to be tried before the present Appeal Commission sitting in Longford from 174 cases to 135, although a number of these appeals are pending for a long time.

(*Answered by Mr. Atkinson.*) The preliminary list of appeals for hearing at Longford contained 194 appeals, representing 136 cases. Four cases in which the appeals were from the order of the County Court Judge were removed owing to the unavoidable absence of the Judicial Commissioner, as having regard to the provisions of Section 47 of the Act of 1881 they could not be heard in his absence. In other cases the parties either withdrew their appeals or entered into settlements; otherwise the list was not reduced in size.

Payments of Rebates under the Finance Acts in Ireland.

MR. J. P. FARRELL: To ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer to state whether all the people who have claimed rebates under the Finance Acts in Ireland have now got the amounts to which they were entitled.

(*Answered by Mr. Ritchie.*) The claims for rebate of duty which have been received from Ireland are now in course of examination, and, in the event of their being found in order, payment will be made without unnecessary delay.

Remuneration of Staff of Irish Agricultural and Technical Instruction Board.

MR. MACVEAGH (Down, S.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction for Ireland have on their clerical staff a number of Gentlemen with over eight years service, but whose rate of pay does not reach £100 a year, although persons of less official experience have within the past three years been employed for similar duties at salaries ranging between £100 and £350 per annum; and, if so, whether the disparity will receive the attention of the Department.

(*Answered by Mr. Wyndham.*) In answer to this Question I would refer to my replies to the similar Questions by the hon. and learned Member for North Louth on the 28th May, 17th June, and 7th instant.†

Rock Angus Lighthouse.

MR. H. C. RICHARDS (Finsbury, E.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he will call the attention of the Irish Light Commissioners to the present condition of the lighthouse at the mouth of the Strangford Lough—viz., on Rock Angus; and whether he will request the Irish Light Commissioners to proceed to the lighting of the same for the guidance of the ships entering the lough during the autumn and winter trading seasons.

(*Answered by Mr. Wyndham.*) I have referred this Question to the Commissioners, who observe that, without carrying out an elaborate scheme of leading lights in conjunction with the lighting of "Rock Angus" Beacon so as to guide vessels up to the anchorages of "Audley" and "Cross" Roads, the lighting of the beacon would be useless. As, however, such an undertaking would, in the opinion of the Commissioners, be solely a benefit to the local trade frequenting Strangford Lough, they have been unable to recommend that it should be carried out at the expense of the General Lighthouse Fund.

Qualification of Nurses in Monaghan Union Hospitals.

DR. THOMPSON (Monaghan): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland if he will order a Return of all the nurses, together with their qualifications, appointed in union hospitals in county Monaghan from the passing of the Local Government Bill down to the 31st December, 1902, including those acting in a temporary capacity.

(*Answered by Mr. Wyndham.*) The preparation of a Return such as suggested would entail an expenditure of much time and labour. So far as I am aware it would serve no useful public purpose, nor would its importance in other respects be such as to justify its being laid upon the Table as a Parliamentary Paper. For these reasons I regret I cannot see my way to consent to the Return.

Returns of Lunatics in Irish Asylums.

MR. SAMUEL YOUNG (Cavan, E.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland if he will give a Return of the number, ages, and sex of all persons in each lunatic asylum in Ireland, classifying them according to age in periods of five years, and according to length of time confined in periods of one year.

(*Answered by Mr. Wyndham.*) At page 14 of the last published Annual Report of the Inspectors of Lunatic Asylums is a table showing, in quinquennial periods, the ages of patients (distinguished according to sex) who were admitted to district asylums and who recovered during the year 1901, and also of those remaining in the asylums on the 31st December, 1901. Similar tables will be found at pages 44 and 62 in respect of the Dundrum Criminal Lunatic Asylum and the private asylums. These tables will be continued to 31st December, 1902 in the next Annual Report of the Inspectors. I see no sufficient reasons, however, for imposing on the Department the preparation of a Return setting forth this information for each asylum separately.

Irish Intermediate Education—Reduced Standard.

MR. O'MARA (Kilkenny, S.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether, seeing that the Intermediate Education (Ireland) Board found, in 1902, that they had demanded too high a percentage of marks as a condition of passing in each subject; that after the results of the examinations of that year had been communicated to the schools they found it necessary to issue a revised and extended list of passes based on a lower standard; that they have decided to lower the standard for 1904 and succeeding years; and that this year they have announced the same standard which proved excessive last year; will he represent to the Board the desirability of reducing the standard this year, and allowing pupils to pass who reach the standard which the Board has now definitely adopted for 1904.

---

† See (4) *Debates*, cxxiii., 110 & 1162; cxxiv., 1524.

(*Answered by Mr. Wyndham.*) The matter referred to in this Question will be considered by the Intermediate Education Board when it has before it the Returns to be made by the examiners of the examinations recently concluded. The Returns will be submitted to the Board on or about 1st September.

Tent Bottoms for Officers.

SIR GEORGE BARTLEY (Islington, N.): To ask the Secretary of State for War whether, when tent bottoms are issued to non-commissioned officers and men sleeping out in tents, officers can only obtain them on medical certificate, and then have to pay for their hire.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Brodrick.*) Under arrangements now under trial, officers can obtain tent bottoms when the issue is made to non-commissioned officers and men under canvas on the recommendation of the medical authorities. Officers, however, pay out of their field allowance, which is meant to cover such items as this, a charge of sixpence a day up to a maximum of ten shillings for the use of the tent bottoms.

QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE.

Case of J. C. Vantyen.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL (Donegal, S.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether J. C. Vantyen, a Boer officer, who when prisoner of war at Trichinopoly was sentenced by an English commander to fourteen months imprisonment with hard labour, is still in gaol; and what was the offence for which this penalty was inflicted.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO THE WAR OFFICE (Lord STANLEY, Lancashire, Westhoughton): This man was sentenced on 3rd April, 1902, to imprisonment with hard labour for fifteen months for complicity in a disturbance among the prisoners of war in camp. He was released in November last.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL: I hope he was not guilty of "ragging."

Transvaal—Deportation of British Undesirables.

MR. MARKHAM (Nottinghamshire, Mansfield): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether Lord Milner has still the absolute power to turn any British subject out of the Transvaal after giving him three days notice to quit the country; whether the subject is denied all right of appeal to the High Courts now sitting; and whether, if the subject refuses to leave the Transvaal, he is put into prison and forthwith deported over the border; and, if so, will he inform Lord Milner that these exceptional powers must not be any longer employed by him, and that for the future all British subjects must have free access to the Courts of the country.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES (Mr. J. CHAMBERLAIN, Birmingham, W.): The hon. Member's Question does not accurately represent the provisions of the Peace Preservation Ordinances to which he appears to refer. The powers given under these Ordinances to the Lieutenant-Governor were very carefully considered, and I do not propose to take the action suggested.

MR. MARKHAM: Will the right hon. Gentleman say in what particulars the Question is wrong?

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: Yes; in the first place, it is not Lord Milner to whom power is given, but the Lieutenant-Governor, and I am not aware that anyone has been denied the right of appeal to the High Court. As the law allows discretion to the Lieutenant-Governor, there does not seem any use for an appeal in such cases. If the subject refuses to leave the Transvaal he is not deported; he is imprisoned until he consents to go.

MR. MARKHAM: Is it not the fact that British subjects have already been deported over the border after having been imprisoned against their wish?

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: I am not aware of it.

Transvaal Municipal Election Ordinance.

Mr. MARKHAM: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether by the last South African mail he received any report from Lord Milner dealing with the Municipal Election Ordinance; and whether, seeing that by the terms of this ordinance only white British subjects are entitled to exercise the franchise, he will say whether, in view of the municipal scheme he urged on the late Transvaal Government for adoption by that Government, he will now advise His Majesty to disallow this Ordinance, which excludes the subjects of all countries, other than British, from administrating their own property.

Mr. J. CHAMBERLAIN: The answer to the first part of the Question is in the negative. I am not prepared to say what advice will be tendered to His Majesty in respect of an Ordinance which has not yet been received.

Mr. MARKHAM: I put this Question down three weeks ago, and the right hon. Gentleman then said he had not heard from Lord Milner. Seeing that this measure was adopted by the Legislative Council three weeks ago, does the right hon. Gentleman still say he has not yet received any report on it?

Mr. J. CHAMBERLAIN: Not the report for which the hon. Member asks.

Australian Commonwealth and Foreign Governments.

Mr. WILLIAM REDMOND (Clare, E.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether the South Australian Government have agreed to the view stated in his recent despatch that on matters relating to Foreign Governments, His Majesty's Government should deal with the Government of the Commonwealth, and not with the State Governments.

Mr. J. CHAMBERLAIN: I have not received any further communication from the Government of South Australia on this subject.

Mr. WILLIAM REDMOND: I will repeat the Question this day week.

International Sea Post Offices.

Mr. ALFRED DAVIES (Carmarthen Boroughs): I beg to ask the Postmaster-General if he is aware that the Postmaster-General of the United States refers in his last annual report to the benefits of international sea post offices and the desirability of securing the co-operation of Great Britain in extending the service to steamers under its contract; and also will he reconsider whether space and expense need be barriers to the establishment of sea post offices on the Cunard steamers, in view of the provision made on the "Deutschland" for this purpose, and the price charged.

The POSTMASTER-GENERAL (Mr. Austen Chamberlain, Worcestershire, E.): The question of the establishment of sea post offices on the British Packets which convey mails to and from the United States is now under consideration.

British Cemetery at Corfu.

Mr. STEVENSON (Suffolk, Eye): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether in view of the fact that the remains of several hundred British soldiers and sailors are interred in Corfu, His Majesty's Government will lay upon the Table of the House the text of the agreement made with the Hellenic Government relating to the transfer of the bodies and monuments to the new cemetery in Corfu.

The UNDER SECRETARY of STATE for FOREIGN AFFAIRS (Lord Cranborne, Rochester): No answer has yet been received from the Corfu Municipality to the proposed conditions explained in my reply to the hon. Member for Wakefield on the 17th June.† When finally concluded the agreement for the transfer will be laid upon the Table of the House.

Crete.

Mr. STEVENSON: I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether His Majesty's Government will now communicate to the House the reports of His Royal Highness the High Commissioner of Crete upon the administrative, judicial, and fiscal departments of the Government of Crete for the years 1899, 1900, 1901, and 1902.

---

† See (4) *Debates*, cxxiii., 1160.

LORD CRANBORNE: The answer is in the negative. But there are no reports which can be properly so described.

Brussels Sugar Convention.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES (Lynn Regis): I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer, in view of the inconvenience to sugar importers arising from the absence of information as to the action that will be taken by His Majesty's Government under the Brussels Sugar Convention on and after 1st September next, will he now state what duties will be levied in the United Kingdom on sugars and sugared products from countries signatories of the Convention, and on sugars and sugared products from other countries; and whether the importation of sugars and sugared products into the United Kingdom will be wholly prohibited from countries found by the Brussels Commission to be giving direct or indirect bounties. Will the importation of sugar or sugared products from Russia and Austro-Hungary be prohibited, or from either of them; and will such importation from any other countries, and, if so, what countries, be prohibited? What is the nature of the proofs of origin or the form of the certificates of origin of sugars or sugared products that will be required to be produced? Will sugars and sugared products imported into the United Kingdom before 1st September next from countries whence that importation is prohibited after that date be allowed to be taken out of bond on payment of the duties now in force, or will they be otherwise treated; and, if so, how?

*THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER (Mr. RITCHIE, Croydon): The Bill now before Parliament does not provide for the alteration of the duties on sugar and sugared products imported into this country, but for the prohibition of the importation of sugar from foreign countries which give bounties. The form of the necessary certificates of origin is under consideration. Sugars and sugared products imported into the United Kingdom before 1st September next will be allowed to be taken out of bond on payment of the duties now in force.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES: Am I to understand that the importation of sugar and sugared products into the United Kingdom will be prohibited from countries found by the Brussels Commission to be giving bounties?

*MR. RITCHIE: I cannot tell in what form the Bill may go through the House, but under the Bill, in the form in which it now is, prohibition is the only remedy.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES: Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that the German Government has given to German traders in sugar full information as to what it will do after September 1? Our traders have no such information.

*MR. RITCHIE: Surely my hon. friend is hardly correct in making that statement. The policy of the Government is that of the Bill that has been presented to Parliament. The method they propose to adopt is not that of putting on countervailing duties, but of prohibiting the importation of sugar coming from countries paying bounties.

MR. LOUGH (Islington, W.): Is there not a clause in the Bill which enables duties to be imposed by Order in Council in lieu of prohibition?

*MR. RITCHIE: Not without the consent of Parliament.

MR. LOUGH: That would be assumed.

*MR. RITCHIE: Surely the hon. Gentleman knows that any Act which passes through Parliament is subject to be dealt with differently by any other Act of Parliament. So far as this Bill now before Parliament is concerned, there is no course which the Government can adopt except prohibition.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES: Will the right hon. Gentleman undertake that at some early period the trade shall be informed what course, in pursuance of the Bill or otherwise, will be taken—before September 1?

*MR. RITCHIE: Of course, the Bill empowering the Government to take steps must pass into an Act before Parliament rises, and therefore before September. But I repeat that so far as the policy of the Government is concerned full information is given as to our proposals—viz., prohibition in the case of sugar coming from bounty-giving countries.

Sugar Refineries in Bond.

MR. LOUGH: I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer how many of the sixteen factories which are to be placed in bond under the Sugar Convention Bill are refineries, how many are factories for the extraction of sugar from molasses, and how many are factories for brewers' sugar.

*MR. RITCHIE: I cannot at present add anything to the answer which I gave to the hon. Member on the 2nd instant,† as one or two cases are still under consideration.

Sale of Domestic Medicines.

CAPTAIN NORTON (Newington, W.): I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether his attention has been called to a recent decision of the Lord Chief Justice in the High Court which has caused the Board of Inland Revenue to withdraw, as from the 30th September next, the concession hitherto granted to chemists in connection with the sale of common domestic medicines under the Medicine Stamp Acts; and whether, in the interest not only of the poorer classes, but also of the public safety, he will allow the concession to continue until some Amendment of the law can be made.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY (Mr. ELLIOT, Durham): I would ask the hon. Member to refer to my answer to a similar Question addressed to me yesterday by the hon. Member for Dundee, and circulated to-day with the votes, page 1307.†

Lochgelly (Fifeshire)—Outbreak of Typhoid.

MR. JOHN HOPE (Fife, W.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if his attention has been called to an outbreak of typhoid fever near Lochgelly, Fifeshire, in houses recently built by the Fife Coal Company, Limited, for their workmen; and if he will institute an inquiry into all the circumstances, in view of the loss of life which has taken place.

*THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT (Mr. AKERS DOUGLAS, Kent, St. Augustine's): This is not a matter in which I have jurisdiction to institute an inquiry, inasmuch as it affects public health and not the regulation of mines. I am informed, however, by His Majesty's Inspector of Mines for the East Scotland District, that active measures have been taken to prevent any further spread of the infection. Pure water is being taken in carts to the locality, persons attacked are at once removed to hospital, and disinfection is vigorously carried out. The local authority is also stated to be considering the question of a new scheme of water supply. Only one fresh case has been notified since Saturday, so that it is hoped that the measures taken have been successful in checking the outbreak.

Education Rates.

MR. LEVY (Leicestershire, Loughboro): I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board, if he will state under what Act or provisions County and Borough Councils are levying rates for educational purposes provided for by the Act of 1902 prior to that Act becoming operative in the districts over which they have jurisdiction.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (Mr. WALTER LONG, Bristol, S.): I am advised that the power is given by Section 37 of the Interpretation Act, 1889. That section provides that where an Act passed after 1st January, 1890, which is not to come into operation immediately on its passing, confers power to do anything for the purposes of the Act, that power may, unless the contrary intention appears, be exercised at any time after the passing of the Act, so far as may be necessary or expedient for the purpose of bringing the Act into operation at the date of its commencement. I may add that it would appear from a newspaper report which I have seen that the point is to come before the High Court for decision.

---

† See (4) *Debates*, cxxiv., 1187.

† See page 9.

MR. LEVY: May I ask whether it is necessary to raise the rate to bring the Act into operation?

MR. WALTER LONG Obviously, I cannot answer that Question. Each case depends on its particular merits. I cannot answer Questions of that kind unless I have all the facts before me.

MR. LEVY: Can they do it by means of a loan?

MR. WALTER LONG: I cannot possibly say that without a knowledge of the facts. Loans can be obtained for special administrative purposes, but for the general operation of the Act there must obviously be a rate.

Fiscal Inquiry and British Shipping.

MR. CHARLES M'ARTHUR (Liverpool Exchange): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether, in view of the importance of ascertaining the extent and value of the shipping trade of the United Kingdom in its bearing upon questions of fiscal reform now under consideration, and having regard to the inadequacy of the statistics now available, he will endeavour to obtain further information as to the aggregate tonnage of, and the value of the trade carried on by, British ships trading between foreign countries.

THE PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY TO THE BOARD OF TRADE (Mr. BONAR LAW, Glasgow, Blackfriars): I am aware of the importance of this matter, and the Board of Trade have endeavoured for some years to collect information on the subject, but with only partial success. I fear that the difficulties are almost insuperable, but the Board of Trade are considering whether anything further can be done.

Island of Lewis—Housing Loans.

MR. WEIR (Ross and Cromarty): I beg to ask the Lord Advocate if the Congested Districts Board will consider the expediency of granting loans to crofters and others in the Island of Lewis for the purpose of erecting new houses, in cases in which the present structures have been condemned by local authorities as insanitary and fever-stricken dwellings.

THE SOLICITOR-GENERAL (Mr. SCOTT DICKSON, Glasgow, Bridgton): Under the existing law the Congested Districts Board has no power to grant loans to crofters for the purpose of erecting new houses on their crofts. A Bill to amend the Act in this as well as in other respects is now before the House.

MR. WEIR: Will you get the Bill pushed through, and not allow it to be blocked day after day?

MR. SCOTT DICKSON: We are anxious to see it passed.

Scottish County Council Clerks as Parliamentary Agents.

MR. PIRIE (Aberdeen, N.): I beg to ask the Lord Advocate whether the Secretary for Scotland is aware that in Peebles-shire and elsewhere it has been the custom for clerks to the County Councils to act as election agents to Parliamentary candidates; and whether, seeing that this practice is not permitted in England, and that the officials in question are salaried out of the rates, he will consider the advisability of addressing a communication to the County Councils with a view to these officials being placed on the same footing as other public servants.

MR. SCOTT DICKSON: The Secretary for Scotland has no official information in regard to the custom referred to by the hon. Member. The County Councils are responsible for their clerks, whose salaries are paid out of the County rates, and the Secretary for Scotland cannot undertake to make any representation in the sense suggested.

MR. PIRIE: Will the Lord Advocate inquire into this particular case, and inform himself as to the accuracy of the Question?

MR. SCOTT DICKSON: Assuming its accuracy the Government have no power to intervene.

MR. CATHCART WASON (Orkney and Shetland) Will you consider the desirability of such appointments?

MR. SPEAKER: Order, order! That does not arise out of the Question.

MR. PIRIE; Is it not the case that the House always objects——

MR. SPEAKER: Order, order!

MR. PIRIE: I will put another Question down.

Castletown Berehaven Fishing Industry.

MR. GILHOOLY (Cork Co., W.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been called to the loss sustained by the fishermen of Castletown Berehaven through want of facilities for curing herrings, and also by the absence of markets; and whether he will take steps to have curing stations established in the Castletown Berehaven district, and markets for the sale of herrings and other fish provided for the fishermen.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND (Mr. WYNDHAM, Dover): Representations have been made on these matters by the Castletown Guardians, and will be considered by the Congested Districts Board.

Kerry Potato Growing Industry.

MR. THOMAS O'DONNELL (Kerry, W.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he will state what has the Congested Districts Board done in the way of encouraging early potato growing in County Kerry; whether any effort has been made to find a suitable market; and what has been done to assist farmers in spraying their potatoes.

MR. WYNDHAM: The Board supplied several tons of seed potatoes at reduced rates to a number of occupiers, and artificial manures free of cost. The Great Southern and Western Railway Company carried the produce at low rates, and the cultivators were placed in touch with markets in Dublin and Liverpool. Demonstrations were given in the spraying of potatoes, and the Board offered to supply spraying machines at reduced terms.

Gun Licences in County Galway.

MR. DUFFY (Galway, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that Mr. Edward Treston, of Gort, County Galway, applied for a gun licence on the 11th June before Mr. Newton Brady, R.M.; and, if so, whether, in view of the fact that Mr. Treston has purchased his farm and that he is summoned yearly as a juror, alike at Gort, Loughrea, and Galway, and in view of his position and character, he will explain why Mr. Treston was refused a licence.

MR. WYNDHAM: The question of the issue of a licence to keep fire-arms is one for the consideration of the resident magistrate, as licensing officer of the district. The application of Mr. Treston has been referred to the resident magistrate for further consideration.

Doning (Galway) Continuation Evening School.

MR. DUFFY: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether, seeing that the Doning, County Galway, Continuation Evening School was examined on the 24th March, and that the inspector who examined certified as to the proficiency of the pupils, and recommended the maximum fees per head for all the pupils examined, he will explain why the fees have not since been paid.

MR. WYNDHAM: There was some delay, but I fear it was unavoidable. The fees were paid on Tuesday last.

Dalkey Revision Court.

MR. LUNDON (Limerick, E.): On behalf of the hon. Member for the St. Patrick Division of Dublin, I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he can arrange to have the revision Court for Dalkey polling district held in Dalkey, in view of the inconvenience arising from those interested being obliged to go to Kingston.

MR. WYNDHAM: This matter was carefully investigated two years ago, but it was not then considered desirable to make the suggested change. The Lord Lieutenant will be happy to consider any fresh representations addressed to him on the subject by persons locally interested.

Fiscal Inquiry and Highland Deer Forests.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury, seeing that an increased area of land is annually absorbed for the enlargement of deer forests in the Highland crofting counties, and that a Royal Commission has reported that much of the land used as deer forests might be used for increasing the food supply of the nation, will he, in view of a possible change in the fiscal policy of the country, consider the expediency of introducing legislation such as will tend to check the enlargement of the deer forest area.

THE PRIME MINISTER AND FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Mr. A. J. BALFOUR, Manchester, E.): I cannot accept the premises of the hon. Gentleman, and am therefore not called upon to agree with him in his conclusions. In any case I fail to see any connection between deer forests and the fiscal inquiry.

MR. WEIR: Does the right hon. Gentleman deny the accuracy of the report which I have quoted?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I cannot add anything to my answer.

Royal Visit to Ireland.

MR. JAMES O'CONNOR (Wicklow, W.): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether, in view of His Majesty's approaching visit to Ireland, he will introduce a Bill to repeal The Criminal Law and Procedure (Ireland) Act, 1887.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: No. I have no statement of policy to make on this subject.

MR. JAMES O'CONNOR: Will the right hon. Gentleman send a copy of that answer to the Dublin Corporation before they decide on the question of presenting an Address to the King?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: They will see it in the newspapers.

Irish Post Offices—Exhibition of Emigration Notices.

MR. THOMAS O'DONNELL: I beg to ask the Postmaster-General whether the postmasters in Ireland are asked to exhibit in a prominent place cards inviting Irishmen to emigrate to Canada; if so, will he state when this practice was initiated; and whether, considering the national desire which exists in Ireland to do everything to check emigration, steps will be taken to have those cards taken down from Irish post offices.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: I can add nothing to the information I gave in reply to the hon. Member's similar Question on Monday last.†

MR. THOMAS O'DONNELL: I am afraid the right hon. Gentleman has not fully understood my Question. It is—Will he take down these cards in the Irish post offices only?

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: That is the Question I answered last Monday. I said that they were exhibited in all offices throughout the United Kingdom, and had been so since 1848. I saw no reason to change the practice.

MR. THOMAS O'DONNELL: But have cards asking Irishmen to emigrate been exhibited since 1848? I am told not.

MR. LOUGH: Considering the exceptional circumstances of Ireland with regard to the loss of population, could not an exception be made in the case of that country?

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: Since 1848 it has been the practice in all offices throughout the United Kingdom to exhibit papers giving information likely to be of use to people wishing to emigrate. That has been done in regard to Canada since 1869. The Post Office does not advise people to emigrate, and I do not see why it should withhold information of this kind from those to whom it may be of use.

---

† See (4) *Debates*, cxxiv., 1411.

MR. THOMAS O'DONNELL: And since 1848, 4,000,000 of the Irish people have emigrated.

MR. SPEAKER: Order! order. The Question on the Paper has been fully answered.

MR. THOMAS O'DONNELL: But not satisfactorily.

Scottish Estimates.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury if he will state when the Scottish Estimates will be taken.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: Scottish Estimates are down for this evening. If they are not reached I am afraid I cannot promise any particular day for their discussion.

MR. WEIR: Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that the last time they were down they only came on eight minutes before midnight?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: They have also had a whole day.

MR. WEIR: I shall repeat my Question next week.

British Shipping and Foreign Protective Systems.

MR. CHARLES M'ARTHUR: I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether, in the fiscal inquiry now proceeding, the attention of the Cabinet will be specially directed to the importance of maintaining the position occupied by British shipping in the carrying trade of the world, and to the expediency of considering whether the effect of foreign protective systems upon particular branches of this industry can be obviated without detriment to the general carrying trade of the United Kingdom.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I do not think it is expedient to answer in an inclusive or in an exclusive sense Questions as to the fiscal inquiry; but my hon. friend may rest assured I fully recognise the enormous importance of this industry from the point of view of International commerce.

Continental Powers and the Sugar Convention.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES: I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury a Question of which I have given him private notice—viz., are His Majesty's Government aware that a Conference of the representatives of the sugar industries of Russia, Austria-Hungary, France, Belgium, and Holland, meeting at Brussels on 8th July, adopted resolutions, and made a Convention, limiting the export of sugar to Great Britain to the average amount exported in late years, and assigning an allotted portion thereof to each of the countries named, and that this was done with the avowed purpose of maintaining the price of sugar in Europe, and raising it in the British market; have His Majesty's Government considered the effect of this Cartel arrangement upon the system to be introduced by the Brussels Sugar Convention, and especially on "the equalisation of the conditions of competition between beet and cane sugar from various countries, and the promotion of the consumption of sugar," which that Convention declares to be its purpose; and what steps do they propose to take in order to deal with the new situation thus created.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: We have no information on this subject. No doubt we shall receive it shortly. Of course, I can promise that we shall receive information of what the Brussels Conference has done, but I cannot say that we shall have official information as to what I understand is a secret arrangement between business houses.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES: Will the right hon. Gentleman inquire of our representatives at Brussels as to this arrangement, and whether it is entered into by various countries, some of whom are not signatories to the Brussels Convention? I understand it is not secret.

Mr. LOUGH: If the right hon. Gentleman should find that this very serious and secret arrangement has been entered into, what effect will it have on the proceedings of the Government with regard to the Brussels Sugar Convention Bill?

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: I altogether object to hypothetical Questions of the kind the hon. Gentleman has asked; but I may say that, while I am anxious to obtain information, I cannot say that any information we are likely to obtain will alter the policy of His Majesty's Government on this subject.

The Irish Land Bill.

Mr. JOHN REDMOND (Waterford): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury if he can make any statement in reference to the Report stage of the Irish Land Bill.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: I do not like to give an absolute promise, and I hope the hon. Gentleman will not take this as conveying such a promise, but I shall endeavour to bring on the Report stage of the Bill on Friday next. This, of course, must depend on the progress of the business of the week.

Secretary of State for War's Salary.

Mr. PIRIE: May I ask if the right hon. Gentleman intends to put down the Vote for the salary of the Secretary of State for War next week?

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: I hope to put it down for this day week, but perhaps the hon. Member will repeat his Question on Monday, when I may be able to make a definite statement.

New Procedure Rules.

Dr. FARQUHARSON (Aberdeenshire, W.): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether he intends to afford any opportunity for debating those of the new Procedure Rules which have not yet been submitted to the judgment of the House, or of taking the opinion of hon. Members on the general efficiency of their working; and, if he cannot find time for this, whether he will grant the Committee of Inquiry originally suggested by the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: I should be glad to find an opportunity for discussing the rules that remain undisposed of, but I do not think now, any more than I have thought before, that any time would be gained, or any valuable information collected, by referring them to the consideration of a Select Committee.

Dr. FARQUHARSON: How does the right hon. Gentleman intend to obtain the opinion of Members he desires to obtain, except by some such machinery as the Question suggests.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: Whatever may be the value of the opinion of Select Committees—and I allow it may be great—that opinion never can be taken as conclusive of the opinion of the House; it is the opinion of the Committee.

Dr. FARQUHARSON: But surely evidence could be taken before the Committee from the Speaker, from officials, and from experienced and representative Members, and so the collective opinion could be gathered.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: That was not the Question the hon. Member asked me; he asked me as to the opinion of the House; and now he asks as to the opinion of the Clerks at the Table and others. I am still of opinion that nothing would be gained by having the matter discussed by a Select Committee.

SELECTION (STANDING COMMITTEES).

Mr. Halsey reported from the Committee of Selection: That they had discharged the following Members from the Standing Committee on Trade (including Agriculture and Fishing), Shipping and Manufactures:—Mr. Cameron Corbett, Mr. J. P. Farrell, and Mr. William M'Killop; and had appointed in substitution: Sir William Tomlinson, Mr. Kilbride, and Mr. Flavin.

Report to lie upon the Table.

NEW BILL.

LONDON SCHOOL BOARD (HILLDROP ROAD SITE) BILL.

"To enable the School Board for London to complete the purchase of a site for a Pupil Teachers' Centre, situate in Hilldrop Road, in the parish of St. Mary Islington, and the erection of buildings thereon, and to authorise expenditure incurred and to be incurred in connection therewith," presented by Sir William Anson; to be read a second time to-morrow, and to be printed. [Bill 272.]

MARRIAGE WITH FOREIGNERS BILL.

"To amend the Law in respect to Marriages between British subjects and foreigners," presented by Mr. Macdona; supported by Mr. Talbot, Mr. Rothschild, Sir Joseph Dimsdale, Mr. Churchill, Lord Hugh Cecil, Captain Norton, Mr. T. P. O'Connor, Mr. Samuel Evans, Dr. Farquharson, Mr. Stuart Samuel, and Mr. Heywood Johnstone; to be read a second time upon Monday next, and to be printed. [Bill 273.]

SUPPLY [16th ALLOTTED DAY].

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. JEFFREYS (Hampshire, N.) in the Chair.]

CIVIL SERVICES AND REVENUE DEPARTMENTS ESTIMATES, 1903-4.

CLASS IV.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a sum, not exceeding £5,249,806, be granted to His Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1904, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Board of Education, and of the various Establishments connected therewith, including sundry Grants in Aid."

*THE PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION (Sir WILLIAM ANSON, Oxford University): In moving this Vote I have to make a statement which goes somewhat outside the ordinary statements heretofore made on these occasions, because the House will naturally expect to hear something of the working of the Act passed last year; and upon this, although the working of the Act is only in its inception, there is a good deal to be said. The Committee will recollect that the duties thrown upon local authorities by the Act are large and varied. The whole field of education was placed under their control, and they can study the resources of their areas, and plan out their educational policy for each year. The Committee will like to hear how the various authorities have approached the task set before them. Every council was desired to form a scheme for an Education Committee, and the number of councils called upon to frame schemes was 333—62 counties, 69 county boroughs, 139 boroughs, and 63 urban districts. Of these schemes have been submitted to the Board of Education, published and approved, to the number of 238 in England and five in Wales; there are schemes now in course of publication to the number of twenty-six, and the schemes sanctioned for publication but not yet published are seven in number; thirty-four schemes submitted to the Board are now under consideration with a view to publication; sanction has been refused to four schemes, and nineteen councils have not yet sent in schemes, some because their areas being large they have not yet been able to formulate their schemes, and in other cases urban district councils are considering whether they shall relinquish their educational powers to County Councils. The great majority, then, of the councils have already sent in schemes which have been approved, comparatively few are hanging back or are held over—and for these, in most cases, adequate reasons have been assigned—and only four councils have sent in schemes which have not been sanctioned for publication. The Committee may desire to know what line the Board has taken. The Act of last year requires that schemes shall be approved by the Board of Education, and published within the area of the authority. We thought it desirable that in the boroughs the period of publication should be three weeks, and that in counties a month should be given. In certain cases we have felt it necessary to say the scheme cannot be published because it cannot ultimately be approved. In other cases we have sent forward for publication with a warning that there might be protests and ultimate difficulties before the schemes were approved; and in other cases we sent forward for publication with the practical assurance that, unless objection was taken, the scheme commended itself to the Board of Education.

Before the conclusion of January we thought it desirable to issue a circular to all counties and to county boroughs and non-county boroughs and urban districts setting forth the duties of the councils, the sources from which their income would be drawn, what were the provisions of the Act as to the scheme, what was necessary and what was optional. Then it was thought desirable to offer some explanation of a matter which had been a good deal discussed in this House—namely, what was meant by the indication in the Act that in certain circumstances the nomination and recommendation of various bodies might be desirable. We stated the duties of the Board in respect of schemes, and warned councils of the possible grounds on which protests might be made, and appeals put in asking the Board to withhold its approval of the scheme. We thought it desirable to throw as much light as possible on these matters for the information of the councils. But as time went on we were made aware that councils wished for something more in the way of assistance; and, accordingly, in February we sent round a second circular of suggestions, indicating how the scheme might be framed, and how the various actual requirements of the Act might be met by nomination, recommendation, consultation, or selection by the councils themselves. I think it would be desirable, in order to prevent misunderstanding in the country, to make it quite clear what were the points which were regarded merely as suggestions, and those on which the Board felt bound to insist. The points on which we felt bound to insist were, primarily, that there should be persons of experience in education, and persons acquainted with the needs of the various schools in the area, on the Education Committee. How those people were to be placed on the Committee is, no doubt, a matter which different councils may treat in different ways, either selecting them themselves, or inviting other bodies to nominate them. But these were points on which, while we were willing to advise, we did not feel bound to insist on our advice being followed. There have been certain cases in which we have felt bound to insist — cases where we thought that any injustice was likely to be done to any school or to education, where we thought co-ordination was in danger by the construction of two Committees, cases in which we thought sufficient provision was not made for the presence of certain representative persons on the Committee, and, lastly, where the council endeavoured to fix, with some degree of permanency, matters relating to delegation and procedure.

Sir William Anson.

In regard to cases of injustice, I am happy to say that there are none. There are cases in which we have had some anxiety, and in these we have communicated with the councils directly, and have had interviews with certain members of the councils. We have been satisfied that in these cases, either by the introduction of words in the scheme or assurances from the council, that no injustice of any kind to schools was contemplated. I think I may fairly say that in these matters the interests of the various denominations have been completely met. I do not think that injustice was contemplated or feared in one sort of a school more than another. I think I may say that the last occasion on which I said some alteration would be necessary before sanction was given to a scheme was a case in which the representatives of a certain Council proposed to place on the committee a representative of the Free Church Council, but limited the selection of the Free Church Council to a woman conversant with technical education. I said that, though it was quite proper that the Free Church Council should be represented, to limit the choice in such a grotesque manner was quite improper, and some alteration should be made. I am glad to say that such an alteration was made.

There are, as I have already said, four cases in which publication has been refused, and I will tell the Committee why. We had suggested to the councils that it would be useful, where they thought that they could adequately provide out of their own body for the representation of every sort of education, that they should, nevertheless, put into their scheme a clause which would operate as a reminder of the different sorts of education which should always be represented on the Committee. As was pointed out in the circular which we sent round, there was always to be borne in mind University education, secondary education of boys' and girls' in its higher and lower grades, technical instruction, commercial and industrial education, having special regard to the interests of the area, the training of teachers, and the claims of elementary education in council schools and in voluntary schools. We thought that would be a useful reminder to the councils, and we have constantly urged upon them to include all provisions of this nature. There are certain councils who tell us that they are efficiently provided in their own body with representatives of all these interests. I have no doubt they are; but there are certain councils which, though provided in this way, have constructed their Committee so as to consist of members of the council and one or two women. We have always inquired whether they were satisfied personally that the necessary educational interests were represented, and we have also asked them to make provision that, if hereafter those interests are not represented on the council, as might happen under the scheme, the scheme should be so adjusted that such persons should be introduced from outside. The process is perfectly simple. The scheme need only run that there shall be a Committee to consist of so many persons, one of whom shall always be a woman, and not less than so many of them be members of the council. Then it would always be possible for the council to reduce the numbers of its own members if, by any flow or ebb in the municipal tide, the educational persons on the council happened not to be available to serve. There was also this suggestion, that some provision might be made for the increase in the number of the Committee if they did not cover all interests. We have never suggested that any council which could give us satisfactory assurances would not carry out those assurances, but we have said that we were bound to ensure that the Act was applied, not merely to present circumstances, but to all time; and so long as the scheme remains in its present form we have told the councils definitely that, although we were thoroughly well prepared to accept their assurances, that the Committee would be well manned out of their own body; we must also require that the scheme be sufficiently elastic to admit of the admission of the necessary educational element if the council itself did not provide it.

I do not think that that in any way trenches on the powers of the councils. It merely asks them to provide that the Act of last year shall be observed in the letter as well as in the spirit. Very few councils have made any difficulty in meeting the points I have indicated, but there are four to whom we had to say clearly that we could not and would not pass the schemes, which did not comply with our requirements. I am anxious to declare positively and publicly the policy of the Board in this respect; but I wish to point out that the Board is keeping within the four corners of the Act of last year, and that it is not trenching in any way on the freedom which the council should properly enjoy or on the field of its proper labours. I am prepared to stand by the declarations we have made, and to insist that these provisions shall be made in the scheme. There is another matter on which we are at present at issue with one or two of the councils, and that is on the question of the delegation by the councils of their powers under the Act. They have the power under the Act of delegating all their powers, except those of raising the rate or borrowing money. Certain councils proceeded at once to delegate all the powers that they could delegate to the Committee. We pointed out at once that that was not fair with regard to the councils of the future, that the delegation as contemplated in the Act was essentially a delegation of power which might be extended or curtailed, or withdrawn from time to time at the pleasure of the council, and therefore we have consistently resisted any suggestion or proposal on the part of councils to restrict their successors in regard to delegation. There is also the converse of that—I am sorry to say at this moment we are at issue with one council, though I hope we may convince them that we are right—and that is where a council introduces words into its scheme which would make it impossible to delegate powers—such a clause as that the Committee shall act with the authority and under the direction of the council. If the council afterwards desired to delegate some of its powers it would then be found that the Committee was incapable of acting except under express direction. I think we are right in telling the councils that delegation is essentially a matter which they must keep in their own hands and reserve for their successors. It is the same with procedure. The councils are entitled to direct the procedure of their Committees from time to time, and procedure is eminently a matter which may require to be adjusted and altered from time to time; and wherever we have found in a scheme regulations fixing procedure we have told the council that these rules must come out, and that they must determine procedure by standing orders. I hope I have made it clear how far we have approached the councils by way of suggestion, and how far we have approached them by way of insistence. I think the matters on which we insist are matters on which we are bound to insist. I may say that our relations with the councils have been almost universally friendly. There is the limited number of cases, to which I have alluded, where there is a point-blank resistance to our requirements by councils, but these councils are the exception, and I hope they will soon see that they ought to comply with the Act, not only now, but as long as their scheme remains in force. I think that is all I have to tell the Committee as to the present working of the Act in relation to the councils.

The local authorities, who are really only beginning their work, are beginning to consult the Board of Education as to the arrangements of their schools. In some cases the consultation takes the form of inquiry into their resources by way of endowment. In other cases, and I think chiefly, the questions that have arisen relate to turning higher grade schools into secondary schools. We have not gone far enough in that matter for me to be able to tell the Committee anything worth telling them, except that the consultations are beginning, and I hope the Board of Education may be able, with all the variety of resources which are at the disposal of the various educational authorities, to assist them to work out educational policies suitable to their respective areas.

Now that I have told the Committee how the councils, so far as they have gone, are addressing themselves to the work before them, it will be right that I should say what material the Board of Education has for doing its work and assisting the councils in doing theirs. First, as to the Departmental arrangements. When the Board of Education Bill was discussed in 1899 a great deal was said about a tripartite arrangement of the Board, by which there should be three branches of the Board — elementary, secondary, and technological. At that time, when South Kensington was merged in the Board of Education, the constitution of the Board was as follows: There was a permanent secretary, who had hitherto been mainly engaged in the work of elementary education; there was a principal assistant secretary for elementary education; and there was a principal assistant secretary for everything that was not elementary education—Sir William Abney. At the beginning of this year Sir William Abney, for reasons of health, resigned his position on the Board. I should like to take this opportunity of saying how greatly the country and the education of the country is indebted to Sir William Abney for the work which he has done in promoting the study of science and art throughout the country. I am glad to say that Sir William Abney will continue to advise the Board for some years to come; but he has retired from his place as permanent assistant secretary, and we now have the tripartite arrangement which was talked of in 1899

—a principal assistant secretary for elementary education, another for secondary education and a third for technological education.

As regards elementary education I shall have something to say presently. As regards secondary education what I have to say is hardly any addition in substance to what was said by the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Cambridge University last year. Our dealings with secondary education are partly work we have taken over from the Charity Commission, and partly the assistance of certain types of secondary education. There are schools under A division, where the bulk of the scholars' time is appropriated to science, mathematics, manual instruction, and art, and there are schools under B division which appropriate about one third of their time. I should say there are 226 schools now receiving grants in the A division and 160 in the B division; and in both we are adopting the principle of the block grant; that is to say, we are paying for curriculum and not for specific subjects. The science classes are a diminishing quantity, and will not last much longer. The day classes for science at schools which have been subsidised by the Board are not satisfactory. They are too intermittent; they are usually demanded by schools which have small appliances and no laboratories and therefore they are too theoretical. I should say there are certain day school companies which have received assistance for some years past. It was announced last year that these companies, which are dividend paying companies, would not receive the grant any longer; but the Treasury has considered—and I think it is fair as they only had notice towards the end of last year—that this practice should not be wound up at the end of this month, but that they should have a year's grace. I do not commend the practice, but, on the other hand, I am prepared to recognise the fairness of giving these schools a year's grace, after which I hope the practice will be altogether discontinued.

The technological department under Mr. Ogilvie at South Kensington is a department of a most miscellaneous character. It has charge of science and art museums, schools of art, technical institutions and evening classes. The grant for technical institutions is a grant for a two years course in science or in science and art. The pupil must either have had a three years course in a Division A. school or a Division B. school, or he must be more than fifteen years of age, and capable of profiting by an advanced course of instruction. Here, again, we have adopted the principle of the block grant, and we are introducing an approved course in place of the various items of instruction which hitherto have been entitled to earn the grant.

As regards evening classes, I am bound to say the number has slightly, though not considerably, decreased. But this is a year of transition, and I hope the evening classes will shortly revive. The policy of treating them as technical and secondary branches of the work of the Board of Education has not impaired their utility, though it has for the moment checked their increase. I wish to dispel the fears of those who think that elementary education is no longer obtainable in these classes. The combination of subjects is left to the local authority, and the word "elementary" is not used because it was thought that the word "preliminary" might have a more attractive meaning. The teaching is preliminary, and every effort is made to make this teaching, however elementary, real; that is to say, to make it correspond to the surroundings and interests of the pupils. After discussing with Mr. Ogilvie the conditions of the teaching in these evening classes, I am satisfied that no effort will be spared to give what I have just described as reality to the teaching, and that in every case, whether it is advanced or whether it is preliminary, it will be adapted to what the pupil is doing, and what he is thinking about, and to the circumstances and conditions of the area around him. In that way I believe the slight set-back in the evening classes will be of temporary duration, and that we shall find them increasing in number as we go on.

I now come to the other source by which the Board of Education informs itself, and hopes to inform the local authorities. The inspectorate is, of course, the great instrument of the Board, and it is especially important now in our new relations with the local authorities. I will deal first with the inspectorate of the elementary schools, because there we have had a change of machinery. Hitherto we have had a senior chief inspector who took London for his division, and eleven chief inspectors, two of whom were assigned to training colleges and the rest to certain divisions in the country. We have now changed this, and we have a chief inspector who is not attached to any district, but is the channel of communication between the inspectorate and the Board. The inspectorate have one of themselves through whom they can always communicate with the Board. The divisional inspectors will be eleven in number. One will be assigned to London. Each divisional inspector will be made responsible for the inspection of the training colleges within his area, and the two inspectors formerly assigned to the training colleges will be given, one to London and one to a new division which we are constituting in the north because the former northern division was too large for any one man to deal with. Yorkshire is quite enough for one divisional inspector, and the new division will consist of Northumberland, Durham, Cumberland, and Westmorland. What we desire is that the divisional inspectors should be in more constant correspondence with their staff and the chief inspector with the divisional inspectors. In that way we hope to get into closer contact with the local authorities, to get a better general knowledge of the wants of every area and to be able to meet the local authorities where they want information. I have been asked frequently in this House and outside by persons interested in the new Education Committees what assistance they may expect to receive from the inspectors of the Department. We are prepared to give them as much assistance as we possibly can. Instructions have been given to every inspector—they are now, if not in the hands of every inspector, on the way—to give assistance to local authorities; and we only ask local authorities to take the initiative in coming to our inspectors and telling them what they want to know. The inspectors will respond, I hope, freely and cordially to the demands or requests of the local authorities. No doubt there may be matters on which the inspector will have to refer to the Board, where he is asked questions on matters on which it is possible that an appeal may lie to the Board of Education, or, in other matters, cases may arise in which the inspector will have to say to the local authority, "I must consult the Board before I give you information on this point." But I think those cases will not be numerous, and I cordially hope that our inspectors will be able to give the local authorities all the assistance they will be glad to receive.

Mr. LLOYD-GEORGE (Carnarvon Boroughs): Will they attend the meetings of the Committees?

* Sir WILLIAM ANSON: That will certainly be within their power. Now I come to the secondary inspectors. The secondary inspectorate is not yet fully organised, for one practical reason—namely, that until quite lately, until the passing of the Board of Education Act, the secondary inspectorate was entirely organised as an inspectorate for the purposes of science and art. What with the work taken over from the Charity Commissioners, and what with the requirements thrown upon us by the regulations for the register of teachers, we want not only more men, but we want more men with literary and linguistic qualifications, and we want men of such experience and position as will command the confidence of the local authorities and the headmasters of secondary schools. We have been driven to the temporary employment of a large number of inspectors for secondary schools. Perhaps the Committee will better understand what I am speaking of if I say that the regulations for the registry of teachers require that teachers to be on the register should possess certain qualifications, and one of those qualifications is probationary service in a school recognised by the Board of Education; and, as a great many teachers are unable to comply with the new provision, clauses have been introduced which enable the teachers who have undergone a certain period of previous service at a recognised school to be placed on the register. The number of schools demanding recognition for this

purpose is very large. I think the Committee will be surprised when I tell them that since October 1,325 schools have been recognised, and that 296 have been refused recognition. I am informed by Mr. Bruce, the principal assistant secretary of that department, that he thinks the work has been extremely well done. I think it is a remarkable piece of work to have done in the time, and that it should not pass without recognition. As I have said, we want more men. We have had to employ temporary inspectors, and we have also had to borrow inspectors from the elementary department; but we hope, in course of time, to develop an inspectorate which shall be adequate to our requirements for secondary education. There is no actual division between the inspectorate on the technological side and the inspectorate on the secondary side. The elementary schools are grouped by themselves. The technical and secondary inspectors are common ground between the heads of their respective branches, but, of course, there are certain inspectors who are mainly literary, and there are certain inspectors who are mainly scientific, and we borrow largely from the elementary staff. They are not water-tight compartments but each department is willing to assist the others consistently with the proper discharge of its own duties. The Board has two other sources of information. One is the director of special inquiries. The business of the director of special inquiries is to collect and supply information and make occasional reports under the direction of the chiefs of the departments. I have to express here my great regret that the Department has lost the services of Mr. Sadler. I need not say more now, because I believe that the subject will be discussed at a later stage of our debate, except that I wish to express my personal regret that Mr. Sadler thought it necessary to resign. I believe we have obtained an admirable successor to Mr. Sadler, that that branch of our Department will continue to collect information as has been done admirably during the last few years by Mr. Sadler, and that it will, at the same time, utilise that information for the benefit of local authorities. I cannot help thinking that among those eleven volumes of Reports which have been published by the Board of Education, local authorities may find some methods of education which may form proper material for experiment in their own areas.

The other means of information and assistance which the Board possess is the Consultative Committee. The Consultative Committee is a body of which I had better not say very much in praise because I have been a Member of it until not quite a year ago. It has had thrown upon it the duty of framing regulations for the register of teachers, and it has been consulted by the Board as to the propriety of accepting and recognising certain bodies for the purposes of inspection. It is now engaged in an important inquiry as to leaving examinations for the purpose of entering the Universities or some of the professions. That inquiry is now going on, and all I can say is that it promises to be a very important and interesting inquiry. The Consultative Committee is a body of persons who represent a great variety of educational experience; and I hope that hereafter, as, indeed, has been the case and is now, the opinions which it forwards to us on the matters which we lay before it may be found of great practical value to the Board of Education.

Now I have told the Committee how far the councils of the counties have come forward to deal with the problems presented to them by the Education Act, and what is the present position of the Board of Education for the purpose of assisting them in the matter, but there are one or two general questions which I should like to bring before the attention of the Committee. There is always the question asked by the Chancellor of the Exchequer and by other people, whether we get a full return for the money which we are spending on education. I will first touch upon secondary education. We spend comparatively a trifle on secondary education—not much more than £500,000. But do we get a full return for that, and is it as well spent as it should be? I fear that in some ways the money we are spending on secondary education is destroying an education which had some elements of good in it, and is not giving us anything really substantial in its place. What we want is, I think, two sorts of education for that which we call secondary education. We want a good liberal education, with such a knowledge of science as will enable a man to understand the world he lives in—such a knowledge of science, I am sorry to say, as was not given to the youth of a period which I recollect; and we want a good technical education—something that will fit our youths to compete in the commercial struggles of the day, coupled with such a knowledge of language, literature, and history as will remind them that, after all, there is a past, and that great men have said and done great things worth saying and worth recording. I fear that in a large and important branch of schools we are losing both these. The schools to which I refer are not the well-known public schools, but the smaller grammar schools, which are more numerous, and to which very often the professional man who cannot afford to send his son to one of the better-known schools looks to give his son a liberal education. I have before me a Report which, I confess, has rather alarmed me as to these schools. What do they get from us? They get assistance from the Board of Education, either as schools where practically the whole of the boy's time is absorbed in science and mathematics, or as schools where a third of the time is so occupied. But, I am sorry to say, the schools that come to us are generally poor schools which go in for the larger grants and so far sacrifice what I believe to be the higher educational interests of their pupils. The assistance they have got from the local authorities has been in the direction of technical education. Everything has trended in the direction of a scientific education, and yet we are constantly told that in the application of science to industry we are immeasurably behind the other nations of Europe. In these schools, I am told by a very competent, a very experienced, and a very judicially-minded inspector, that they have practically abandoned Greek, that they have almost abandoned Latin, and that geography, history, and literature are neglected or untaught. A classical language is, after all, the best machinery for the analysis of the construction of language, and it does introduce the student, in learning the language, to the masterpieces of classical literature. And it is desirable that the student should know something about language, because it is by language that we express our thoughts. It is desirable also that we should know what men are doing now, and what they may have done in the past, and said as well. And, as we have to live on the earth's surface, it is desirable that we should know something of physical and historical geography. I do not think that the colloquial knowledge of French and such mathematics and science as is learned by a boy who will not have to apply them in the course of his subsequent career is at all adequate to the old-fashioned liberal education, with all its faults, which we are so rapidly superseding in these secondary schools. I should like to see it more thorough and more real than it was at a period which I hardly like to recall, but I do wish to see more public attention excited in the revival of the older studies, and in particular in the insistence of a knowledge of some portion of good literature, whether it is French, German, English, Latin, or Greek. I will not trouble the Committee by quoting from a Report which, I hope, will be published, but I will read the concluding sentences:—

> "The result of what I have been describing is that it is no uncommon thing for a bright and intelligent boy to leave school at the age of sixteen or seventeen without ever having had an opportunity of becoming acquainted with any book except text-books written purely for school purposes. At the best he will have read a poem of Scott or a play of Shakespeare for examination, and even that is made destitute of educational value by the nature of the editions used and the excessive importance attached to notes and philological discussions far too advanced for the boys. To take a single case, the edition of Shakespeare most commonly used prints all difficult words in italics, thereby distracting the attention from the sound and beauty of the verse, and discouraging all spontaneous observation"

As to history—

> "No history but English history is taught, although an understanding of English history is impossible without some knowledge of the history of the Continent. The period chosen for study is determined, not by the previous career of the boys, but by the syllabus of an examination, and I have, not once, but repeatedly, found boys studying the Wars of the Roses who are quite ignorant of all previous history; in one case so ignorant that they did not know who William the Conqueror was."

I think this calls for the attention of the Board of Education. I think this should be corrected, and corrected in one of two ways—either by altering the types of education to which we give grants, or by only paying grants if we are thoroughly satisfied that other studies are not being neglected.

*MR. EMMOTT (Oldham) asked whether these schools were receiving grants under the A scheme for schools of science.

*SIR WILLIAM ANSON: They are mostly receiving aid-grants in one form or another.

MR. BRYCE (Aberdeen, S.): I suppose they are receiving science and art grants?

*SIR WILLIAM ANSON: Yes. When I come to elementary education, the question whether we get full return for our money becomes crucial, because of the enormous sums spent every year. I looked at the Report for 1901–2, and found that in Parliamentary grants more than £8,000,000 was spent, more than £3,000,000 in rates, and more than £800,000 in voluntary contributions—in all, considerably more than £11,000,000. I would first say that this money is ill-spent if the children are ill-taught. We have a limited supply of training colleges for teachers, and the want is really too well known for me to enter into any statistics on the matter. The cause is mainly the insufficient supply of training colleges, and the early pressure and imperfect training of the pupil teachers. The Committee may possibly recollect that in the course of our debates on the Education Bill last year it was announced by the Prime Minister that the Chancellor of the Exchequer would be prepared to make grants to students living in hostels attached to day training colleges on the same scale as the grants made to students in residential colleges. The latter receive £50 for a man and £35 for a woman. In day training colleges men receive £35 and women £30. In the case of the residential colleges the payment is made to the college, and not to the students; and in the case of the day training colleges the payment is made to some extent to the institution where the instruction is given. A limit has been imposed up to now that the grant should not exceed 75 per cent. of the total cost of the student's training. The grant now approximates so nearly to this limit, and the saving to the Exchequer is so small, and the administrative trouble of going into the accounts of all the colleges, and of all the hostels, which we hope will be more numerous in future, is so great, that it has been decided to abolish the 75 per cent. limitation. The students in the residential colleges and hostels will, therefore, be placed on the same footing, and the students in day training colleges will continue as they are. We have a body of regulations concerning training colleges, and including regulations as to hostels and as to pupil teachers; and I will not trouble the Committee by saying more as to the terms of the grant, or the conditions under which the Board will approve the hostels. There is one matter I am bound to mention, because it stands rather apart. The old Universities of Oxford and Cambridge have large day training colleges, and they are attended by students of three sorts; there are those who may not be members of the Universities at all, students who are non-collegiate, there are students not attached to any college or hall, and students who are members of colleges. Of the latter some spend part of their time at college and part in lodgings, some more, some less; and we have found it impossible to draw a distinction between two members of the same college, one living in college rooms and the other in lodgings over the way. The student living in lodgings sanctioned and authorised by the college is under strict college discipline and liable to any requirements made upon him. Under those circumstances the Treasury has consented to treat both these classes of students on the same footing. But I am bound to say that the Board has undertaken to make quite sure that the student in lodgings gets the full benefit, and is subject to the full discipline of his college, and that he therefore will not lose anything of the disciplinary result of the life which the college may afford. I have considered the matter very carefully, because there are no other places in the world where there are collegiate institutions similar to those of Oxford and Cambridge, where a student gets a corporate life in this form, and where he can get that whether he lives in lodgings or in college rooms. I should like to say that the arrangement as to the grant does not strike me as having reached a position of finality. I cannot entirely reconcile myself to the large difference drawn between a man in a residential college and a woman, and there may also be something to be said for a closer approximation between the day training schools and the residential colleges. But it is impossible to raise that question this year. I do not know whether the Chancellor of the Exchequer will receive any such proposal with consideration in a future year, but I wish to record my own opinion that the present state of the grant is somewhat arbitrary.

Now I come to the question of the pupil teacher, where we are making a gradual change, which I hope will be a very considerable and fruitful change. At present the pupil teacher may begin work in rural districts at the age of fourteen, in urban districts at the age of fifteen ; 40s. is paid for him ; and he works at the school for the King's Scholarship examination—works and teaches at the same time. Below the pupil teacher in the teaching scale is the probationer, who is unpaid and untaught, but is recognised on the staff as equivalent to the instruction of ten children. I do not desire to see this order continued; the pupil teacher, I think every one will admit, begins too early.

SIR JOHN GORST (Cambridge University): Is there not a monitor below that?

*SIR WILLIAM ANSON: There is a monitor, but I do not think the Committee are prepared to struggle with the monitor. What we want in the case of a person entering the teaching profession is a period of preparation, and that period of preparation will diminish the amount of uninterrupted teaching. We cannot get it all at once, because we shall have to upset the staffing arrangements of the school, which have gone on under their present condition for a long time, and in rural districts, and other parts besides, it would lead to great inconvenience if they were suddenly deprived of their pupil teachers. We propose to proceed in this way—After 1st August, 1904, no one is to begin to teach before the age of fifteen in the country, or sixteen in the town. After 1st August, 1905, every pupil teacher must be taught in a pupil teacher centre, and must not work for more than half time. Before this stage the scholar must have some preparation either at a secondary school, or at a higher elementary school; either at a secondary school which earns one of the two grants, or at a secondary school which does not earn either of the grants, but to which for these purposes the grant of £2 a year will be made; or failing this at preparatory classes, which we hope will be established where these secondary schools are not available for the students. The ideal we aim at is three or four years at a secondary school with a minimum grant of £2 a year in cases where secondary schools obtain a grant from the Education Department, and then a period of two years at a pupil teacher centre with a grant of £3. We hope that some secondary schools will establish pupil teacher centres in connection with their work. We hope that preparatory classes in the pupil teacher centres may develop into secondary schools; but we look for unbroken preparation until the age of sixteen, and for half-time preparation and half time teaching up to the age of eighteen, after which we hope the pupil teachers will go to the training college and enter the teaching profession better prepared than they are now. This is one of the reasons to which I referred just now, why we wish to reserve to ourselves freedom as to the types of secondary education which the Board of Education will assist. We also look forward to and will welcome co-operation with the local education authorities, some of whom have taken up the work of training teachers already with energy. We will be prepared to work with them experimentally or on lines laid down. I wish to recognise the efforts made in some parts of the country in that direction, and I hope these efforts will be imitated and followed in other parts of the country. I can assure the local authorities who wish to undertake this good work, that the desire of the Board of Education is to co-operate with them.

There are two other matters connected with elementary education which sometimes make me despair. One is, what happens to boys when they leave school? There is need of a body of people, who ought to be managers of schools, who would watch a boy when he is about to leave school and see that he is not taken away too soon, and that his career is not spoiled by his going into temporary office work, so as to secure that the boy gets the advantage in after life of the education he has received. I will give an illustration which came before me not long ago. I was taken by one of our inspectors to a wood-work centre in London. He told me he had been about in various parts of the Continent inspecting centres and places where this sort of work is done, and he said that the work done in that particular centre was superior to any done on the Continent. I asked what happened to the boys when they left. The master told me that not more than 7 per cent. went into the business for which they were there being prepared with advantage and profit. He also told me that something like from 15 to 20 per cent., after having gone into an office and grown out of office work—I am afraid that employers of labour do not always consider when they employ boys that they incur some responsibility —when they leave the office, go back and resume painfully and not so effectually as heretofore the work they had been doing before. And all this time the great furniture workshops in London have been filled with French and German workmen doing the work which our own boys might do better than they! That concerns the way in which the children leave the school.

But there is another and more serious question, and that is the condition in which the children come to school. There was, the other day, a noteworthy discussion in another place on the deterioration of the people, and various bodies of persons were mentioned as supplying evidence — recruiting officers, the Local Government Board, etc. I venture to think that inspectors of schools in large towns could furnish some evidence that would be very valuable in any inquiry of that kind. I heard the other day from some of our inspectors some facts which I think ought to be known to the House. There are, according to the testimony of an inspector who is very careful and very sympathetic with regard to children, more than 60,000 children in London who are physically inferior, and who cannot get the benefit of the teaching in the schools. How does this arise? They start badly. They are the offspring of early marriages and of unthrifty parents; they are overworked; they work before they go to school, and they work when they come back from school. They do not get enough rest, because the mothers do not take the trouble to send the children to bed, and they run about the streets until after midnight. They do not get enough food; they go out to school in the morning without breakfast; and their housing is bad. I am told that in Lambeth there are 12,000 one-roomed tenancies. Their homes are bad, and, with such neglect of the parents, the influence on the children cannot be good. The result is that these children are easily tired in mind and body. They cannot sustain their attention; they cannot last through an ordinary day at school. They fail early, and any sort of disorder takes easy hold of them. They are backward to the extent of two, three, and sometimes four years behind the well-fed and well-looked-after children of the same age. Now, what remedy can you find for this? An inquiry was promised the other day in another place; and all I can say is that the Board of Education will be most desirous to press for the fulfilment of that promise, and be most ready to provide such evidence as will make that inquiry efficient and complete. But after all, although the Local Government Board may do something in the matter of housing, the Home Office in the matter of the employment of children, and the Board of Education in limiting the size of the classes in the schools in the poorer districts so as to ensure more individual attention on the part of the teachers, this is not a case in which, it seems to me, legislation or administration can possibly say the last word. What we want is to get the parents to live decent lives and to show proper parental affection and care for their children. No Department can give a new revelation or a spiritual or moral impulse. What is really wanted is volunteer effort, the work of men and women for men and women in these poor places, probably as managers of schools. At any rate, they should get to know the children in their homes and try to impress on the parents their duty towards the children which they have brought into the world. Surely, there are many people who might occupy themselves in these things. There are many people in this town, I believe, who, when they wake up in the morning, have to exercise some thought as to how they are going to get through the day. The work I am suggesting that these people should do is not, on the face of it, attractive work. The process of regeneration is bound to be slow and full of disappointments, and marred by frequent conviction of total failure. And yet, I promise to anyone who will undertake a work of this sort and carry it through, that some morning or another they will wake up and find that though they have deliberately sacrificed somewhat of pleasure they have found happiness unawares.

MR. WILLIAM JONES (Carnarvonshire, Arfon) said that the outlook which the hon. Gentleman the Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Education had, in the course of his interesting speech, shown of our educational system was not at all an inspiring one. And the reason, so far as he could see, was the total inefficiency and lack of training methods. The hon. Gentleman talked about the secondary schools of England, and said that the training going on in these schools was mechanical and dull. So far as he could gather, the methods employed by the teachers must have been exceedingly cramped. The teachers had evidently never had any training to make these methods elastic; had never any sense of proportion, and no imagination at all. Take the school which the hon. Gentleman instanced where the children were taught all about the Wars of the Roses without having been taught anything about the Norman Conquest. That contrasted unfavourably with the methods employed in Germany, the United States of America and elsewhere. It seemed to him that what was needed was not more training colleges of the old kind, but that the teachers in the elementary, as well as the secondary schools, should have a first-class University training instead of occupying places in residential colleges. He hoped the inspectors, with the mandate from the Board of Education referred to by the hon. Gentleman, would advise local education authorities not to multiply residential colleges and so create vested interests. The local authorities should be helped by grants to enable students who intended to become teachers to have a training in a University, not merely a training with men and women of the same class, but a training mixed up with men who were to become Members of Parliament, politicians, scientists, doctors, and all sorts of people. He could not understand anything more detrimental to future teachers than to segregate them in one building. Most of the teachers in elementary schools came from the humbler classes of the community, and their methods of training in these residential colleges became mechanical and dull, and they only mixed with the same class to which they belonged. Thus they became stereotyped. They should be sent into healthy and wholesome communion in a University, where they could mix with their tutors and professors, and with fellow-men, rich and poor alike. That had never been done until recently with regard to the teachers. After all, the teachers were the soul of the schools, and unless they got an active personality, with a fine equipment and plenty of brain power, how could they expect this country to compete in the world of technical education, science, and commerce with Germany and the United States. That had been their great failure in the past. There was a great deal of talk just now about "the inquest of the nation." Let them begin to make an inquiry into the proper training of teachers, and the result of that would be most fruitful. They could see how technological studies had helped to make Germany and the United States their great commercial rivals and competitors.

He was glad that the hon. Gentleman had touched upon the promise made by the Prime Minister last July. He thought the promise extended beyond hostels; but he saw from the Report of the Board of Education, which was issued a few days ago, that hostels must be of five years standing before the grant could be given. By that means, a whole generation of children would miss an improved system of teaching. Why should not the Board of Education trust the University Colleges to see that the schoolmasters and schoolmistresses should not only get the best possible education but also the best possible maintenance; and why should not the same grant be given to them as was given to students entering the training colleges of Oxford and Cambridge. He was very glad that the students who were being trained in connection with the Universities got the same grant as was given to students in special training colleges. But why confine the grant to Oxford and Cambridge? Very few students of the humbler classes could afford to go to Oxford or Cambridge. Thousands could afford to go to the training colleges in connection with the University Colleges. These University Colleges were scattered all over the land. He did not think that there was more than one district in which persons who intended to be teachers could not be trained at a University College. The only part of the country not supplied was East Anglia, and he thought that there were sufficient good educationalists in Norwich to have a training college there to supply East Anglia with sufficient mental equipment and sound educational methods for the training of teachers in that part of the country. All the other parts of the country had been mapped out, so that teachers could have ready access to the University Colleges. He himself knew of the good results which had followed the training of teachers in the University Colleges of Bangor and Aberystwyth. In Aberystwyth they had got the best training college in these Islands. There were 135 students, and there were hostels only for the women. Why should the men's college be penalised until they had a hostel of five years' standing? See what was lost to the education of the country by that policy. He hoped that the question would not be dealt with as one of segregation. Segregation was a very bad thing for education. Let the students have a home, and let that home be in connection with a University College, so that the students might mix, not only with intending teachers, but with all the other students, join the same classes, attend the same debates, play the same games. That was the way to train a band of teachers, and to raise the whole status of the educational system of the country. He was glad that they were going to eliminate the pupil teachers, the little boys and girls who were themselves intellectually starved, and who could not be expected to impart education to other children. Although the pupil teachers' centres had done a great deal of work, he was against sending pupils to them in future for the same reason he had already stated in connection with adult teachers. Let them send the pupil teachers to the secondary schools, where they could meet with boys and girls of other classes. In that way they would get a new stratification; they would raise the *status* of the teaching profession, and do away with the barrier between elementary teachers and secondary teachers, which had hitherto been the curse of the educational system of the country. The pupil teachers should get the 60s. grant, and should be taught, not at a pupil teachers' centre, but trained in secondary schools with their fine equipment. If that were done, it would be a preliminary work to raising the whole community and the whole citizenship of the country. It would bring a finer grain into the commerce of the country, and with free trade and education he would not be afraid of the competition of other countries.

SIR JOHN GORST (Cambridge University) said he entirely agreed with the admirable sentiments which the hon. Gentleman had just expressed as to the training of teachers. He thought the hon. Gentleman would agree with him in generally thanking the Secretary to the Board of Education for the excellent reforms which the Board intended to make with reference to the training of teachers. He had nothing to say about them except approbation, with the single exception of the deficiency to which the hon. Gentleman who had just spoken had called attention. He knew very well that that was not the policy of the hon. Baronet the Secretary to the Board of Education. In it he recognised the hand of the Treasury, and he hoped it would not be long before the general influence of public opinion would induce the Treasury to act economically, and that the Board of Education would urge that it would be economy on the part of the Treasury to allow this higher grant to be paid, not only to those who were fortunate enough to live in colleges at Oxford or Cambridge, but to all those teachers who were being trained in the University Colleges. He thought they might very safely say that as long as a young man or a young woman went to an accredited training college, and satisfied the authorities as to the manner in which he or she was accommodated, there was no reason why the higher grant should not be paid. It would be economy on the part of the Treasury to pay the higher grant, because they would get value for the money in the improved teaching which the teachers would be able to impart. He should like to make a few general observations on the statement of the hon. Baronet. First of all, he should like to congratulate the hon. Baronet and the Government on the excellent account the hon. Baronet had been able to give of the working of the Act of last session. There were a certain number of minor difficulties and troubles connected with that Act; but the great object of the Act was to induce the local authorities to undertake the general supervision of the education of the country. From the statement of the hon. Baronet it appeared that, so far as the working of the Act had gone, the local authorities had accepted the functions which Parliament gave them, and were in the course of carrying out the extremely important duties which the Act of last session imposed upon them. He had always thought and always said that when once they induced the great municipalities and the great County Councils of the country to take up the education of the people, and when those authorities were given ample and sufficient powers to carry out their duties, that they might expect enormous progress in the work of education. That view had been given very satisfactory confirmation by the statement of the hon. Baronet.

The Secretary to the Board of Education made this year the same statement that had been made in this Committee year after year. It was an odd statement for a Minister asking the House to vote eight millions of money to make. It was that a very large part of the money which the House was asked to vote would be absolutely thrown away. He entirely agreed with the hon. Baronet in the statement he gave as to the reasons why this money was wasted. As regarded secondary education, he thought, however, that there was a reform going on to which his hon. friend scarcely did justice. Formerly, grants for secondary education were made entirely in the shape of grants for science and art instruction, and were given entirely as the result of examinations. The effect of it was that quite an unnatural stimulus was given to all the poorer schools which looked to earning grants; and instead of giving satisfactory education to the children, the teachers prepared them for examinations which were to put money into the pockets of the trustees and managers of those schools. It was a very vicious system, and it was put an end to mainly by Sir William Abney, the late Secretary to the Science and Art Department, to whom the hon. Baronet paid a well-deserved tribute. He put a stop in the first place to payment by results, and gave a block payment not for examinations, but for teaching, and he instituted the two classes of schools to which grants were given. For the first time for the A schools, which were the older schools, a regulation was made that no grant should be paid unless the literary instruction in the school was satisfactory to the Board of Education. Not only was science taught in those schools and grants given for it, but the inspectors of the Department took care that the literary instruction given — history, geography, foreign languages, and frequently Latin and Greek—was properly taught, and that the general curriculum of the schools was such as to give a generally liberal education. The B schools went a step further in this direction, because in the B schools there must be satisfactory literary instruction, and the science instruction was not more than the amount of science which ought to be taught in a general education. In these days, no man or woman could be said to be efficiently educated unless he or she had some acquaintance with what were called scientific methods, and the application of those methods towards one branch at least of natural science. That was the minimum of what he should call a general education, and he did not think that a person who knew nothing but Latin and Greek had any more right to be called a cultured person than one who knew nothing but science and mathematics.

He would now pass to something more important, which was the waste in elementary education. The reason why so much money was wasted in elementary education was the miserable condition in which the children of a great number of parents in the poorer parts of our great cities were sent to school. He had called attention to this matter on the Scotch Estimates, because in Scotland there had been an inquiry made into the condition of the children of Edinburgh and Aberdeen, and the result of the investigation had been perfectly appalling. He asked the hon. Baronet whether the Board of Education would not make some similar inquiry into the condition of the children of London? It could be done in a few weeks, and would be extremely interesting to see if the condition of the children of the Metropolis was as deplorable. He would not recapitulate what he had said on former occasions, but would commend the Report of the Royal Commission to hon. Members. It appeared that these poor children—the children who lived in one or two-roomed tenements in Edinburgh —were in every respect below the proper condition of children; they were stunted and starved; there was a fearful percentage of preventible disease amongst them; the hearing of more than half was imperfect through ear and throat disease; their sight was affected in such a way that they were not fit to receive instruction in the schools, and a very large number of them were half starved. More than 30 per cent. of them were suffering from actual starvation. If anything like that prevailed in our great cities it was perfectly obvious that for us to train teachers, to pay for schools, to pay Education Committees' inspectors, and salaries to various officers, and to open these schools for the reception of these poor little wretches who were quite unable and unfit to receive the instruction given, was the height of absurdity. The two Gentlemen who made the inquiries in Scotland called attention to the fact that to give physical instruction to children in this state was absolute cruelty. He might add to that, that to give mental instruction was also cruelty, because mental instruction wasted the tissues just as much as bodily instruction and to make these little wretches learn arithmetic and geography when they had nothing in their stomachs, was as cruel as it was to work a starving horse or any other animal.

The hon. Baronet had proposed two remedies, both of which were excellent in their way. First of all he said they should not have too large schools, but the Board of Education prescribed no limit to the size of an elementary school. There were eighteen schools in the last twelve months sanctioned in which the number of 1,000 children would be greatly exceeded, and he would like to ask what were the special circumstances which constrained the Board to sanction them. The other remedy was the efforts of philanthropy. There were a number of persons in this country who devoted their lives and time to the care of these schools and these poor and unhappy children. He was happy to say many people devoted themselves to this task, and had rendered most valuable assistance to the cause, but he thought a public authority ought not to say— "Let the philanthropist deal with this matter; we will do nothing, and allow the evil to go on."

He desired to recommend to the Board of Education three specific remedies for this state of things, which might be put into operation at once, and which might do something towards alleviating this unhappy condition. If the Board of Education did not act upon them there was no reason why the local authorities, the municipalities of great cities, and the County Councils should not move in the matter and do something on their own motion for the amelioration of this shocking state of things. The first thing he would suggest was that there should be a system of adequate examination of the children in order to see what the children were like in the schools. The teachers made an enormous number of useless Returns, and their time would be much better occupied if each teacher made such an inspection of the children in his class as was made by the officers of the army every day. The teacher knew what children came to school without breakfast, and knew those who were half starved, and those who suffered from being overworked and were too tired to learn when they came to school. But the matter ought not to stop there. There ought to be a regular periodical examination of all the children in our schools by the local authority—a medical examination. Not only were many of the Scotch children that were examined found to be suffering from curable defects which could be seen without medical training, but in many cases they were suffering from diseases which no one but a medical man could have detected, but which ought to be made known before the children were subjected to the work of the school. For instance, apparently healthy children, doing heavy dumb-bell exercises, were found to have weak hearts, and to be actually in danger of dropping down dead in consequence of the school exercises through whch in perfect innocence they were being put. Other children were in an advanced stage of phthisis, and it was well known that occasionally ophthalmia and other diseases broke out in which it was most important that children should be at once segregated. The proposition he made would not cost a great deal to carry out, but whatever it cost it would be an economical expenditure of money, and he hoped that the hon. Baronet, if he could not see his way to make it a condition of the Government grant that there should be such an inspection, would at any rate recommend it to the local authorities by circular, so that they might have their attention drawn to the matter.

His second suggestion was that more attention should be paid to the ventilation of schools. The schools of the London School Board and the School Boards around London were generally admirably ventilated, but in other big cities, and especially in country places where the air all around was the purest imaginable, the air in the schools was foul and unhealthy. On a previous occasion he referred to a scientific inquiry which had been undertaken as to the condition of the schools of Manchester. That inquiry was conducted by gentlemen connected with Owen's College, and it had been found that even the schools of Higher Broughton, which were attended by the children of better class artisans, were extremely bad in the matter of ventilation. The rules were admirable. The fault was not in the rules or the structure, but in the carrying out of the ventilation after the school was opened. Inspectors, teachers, and managers were not sufficiently alive to the importance of this matter to the children. If, by instructions to inspectors, and the rigid enforcement of the rules with regard to ventilation, the hon. Baronet brought about a revolution in the schools in this respect it would be greatly to the advantage of the country.

The third practical recommendation he desired to make was that the Board of Education or the local authority should take some steps, he did not say to feed the children, but to see that they were fed. In this matter he had been greatly misrepresented. He had been called a Socialist, and told that he would upset parental responsibility, and so forth. That was not his desire at all. All he said was that if the authorities undertook to give instruction, either mental or physical, to children, they had no right to do it without also being responsible for seeing that the children were adequately fed before they were instructed. He had been told on high authority that what really was most to blame in our social conditions was not that the children were starved, but that they were improperly fed. In the old days, when the children ate porridge and food of that sort, they were much more properly fed than now, when white bread, not of the most nourishing kind, and tea practically formed the food of a large part of the population. If the local authorities would provide the food many parents would gladly pay for it, in order to be sure that their children were adequately and properly fed. He suggested that the local authorities should be encouraged to do this. In many schools, attended by the children of well-to-do parents, it would be quite unnecessary to make any such arrangement, but in all schools where it was required he saw no reason why there should not be provided, at cost price, a school breakfast or a school dinner, or both. He believed that something like a penny would pay for a breakfast, and a wholesome dinner would cost very little more. The teachers should have a discretion to send in to the school breakfast or dinner those children whom they knew to be underfed. The list of the children so sent in should be examined by the local authority, and those parents who could pay should be made to pay, while in the case of those who could not pay reference should be made to the Poor Law authority, and the natural consequences of the receipt of public relief would follow. He was not wedded to any particular plan. All he contended was that it was the duty of the local authority which taught the children to see that before they were taught they were adequately fed.

Then there were two matters connected with the administration of public education to which he wished to refer. One of the things which hindered the attendance of the children, frightened children from school, and made school unpopular, was the extent to which caning prevailed, not only in boys' schools, where one did not object to it so much, but also in girls' and infants' schools, where it was most objectionable. In a large number of schools the practice prevailed as a regular part of the school routine, and quite little children and girls were constantly caned. He did not say that it often degenerated into cruelty or brutality—such cases were rare; but what he did say was that the practice deterred children from going to school, and it was one of the things which made children so dislike school life, that as soon as they were emancipated from it they did not care to go into a school again. This kind of punishment had been abolished in every country except England, while in Egyptian schools infliction of corporal punishment was absolutely prohibited, and he had never seen schools in which the order and discipline were better. The last matter to which he would refer was the question of inspection. He was glad the Government were taking in hand the reorganisation of the inspection of schools. It was absolutely essential that that should be done, because the question of how far schools were to be inspected by the Government and how far by local authorities would certainly arise very shortly, and the local authorities would not be satisfied with Government inspection unless it was thoroughly efficient. By far the better system was to have the inspectors appointed by and responsible to the central Government, who could keep up a much better inspectoral service than any local authority, except perhaps that in London. Moreover, a Government inspector was much less susceptible to or likely to have his judgment warped by local influence The first essential of an efficient inspectorate was that the inspectors should consider themselves judicial officers. They should make their reports under a sense of personal responsibility, and these reports when once made should never be tampered with or altered by the Central Department. An inspector ought to say when a school was bad as well as when a school was good, and he ought not to be reproached or looked down on because he told the truth, and when he saw that instruction was inefficiently given, or that the apparatus was not good, had the courage to say so. A great deal had been heard in the past with regard to military officers being asked to alter their reports, but he thought the Committee had no idea how often inspectors were asked to alter theirs. Such a thing should never be done. It was quite clear that they would not be able to classify the schools in this way. A few local authorities, when there was no Cockerton judgment before their eyes, would establish schools which would at once be elementary, technical, and secondary schools, having all those branches going on under the same teachers. They would find it very difficult to have three sets of inspectors going in the same schools. He felt sure that the operation of the new Act, which would obliterate the distinction which could now be drawn under the Cockerton judgment, would do away with that distinction. They would have different inspectors for different subjects, but they would have to be members of the same body under the same official inspector, and the local authority would have to communicate with one person only about all the schools in their district. He was sorry to have occupied so much time, and, in conclusion, he wished to congratulate most heartily the hon. Baronet on the very satisfactory statement he had made to the Committee. He most urgently pressed upon the House of Commons and His Majesty's Government the urgent and immediate necessity of taking steps to deal with this enormous evil in the condition of the children in the schools, which, if it was not arrested and altered, would more than anything else tend to the misery of their future population, and put an end to all hopes of anything like material progress.

Lord EDMUND FITZMAURICE (Wiltshire, Cricklade) said they had had the advantage of hearing a very interesting statement from the Secretary to the Board of Education, and everybody must feel that that statement, the first since the passing of the Act of last year, marked, to a certain extent, an important period in the history of education. It was, of course, too soon to judge in any decisive manner whether the Act of last year was going to produce all the good results which its framers anticipated, or any of the evil results which some of its critics foreshadowed. So far it seemed to him that both the hopes and the unfavourable anticipations had been realised to a certain extent. The great County Councils and county boroughs had thrown themselves into the task of organising their Education Committees with great zeal and energy, and with considerable success. On the other hand, it was far too soon to give any decisive opinion as to how far in county boroughs and the large towns which previously possessed School Boards, the anticipations of evil which some of them on the Opposition side of the House held might not yet possibly be realised. He did not conceal from the Committee, nothwithstanding the reassuring statement of the right hon. Gentleman, that he thought it was too soon, from the very nature of the subject, to decide whether the Committees of large county boroughs and the ex-School Board boroughs, being bodies largely burdened with other municipal duties, would be able fully and adequately to find time to discharge the great new duties placed upon them. He sincerely hoped that whatever doubts they had expressed on that side of the House as to the success of this measure might by the results turn out not to be justified.

It was more pleasant to turn from these controversial subjects to the subjects touched upon in the speeches made during that afternoon. His right hon. friend the Member for Cambridge University had urged upon the Committee the immense importance of what might be called the physical aspects of education. He had spoken from the point of view of the crowded populations of the great towns. He was glad to hear what fell from the right hon. Gentleman when he said that in his opinion a very large portion of these observations applied also to rural districts. Nothing was more remarkable and extraordinary than the apparently absolute ignorance of the average school manager upon the ventilation of schools. At the present time County Councils were naturally engaged in the task of taking stock of the condition of the public elementary schools in their counties, because the existence of the famous wear-and-tear-clause obliged them to take stock of the condition of those schools so as to protect themselves against any unreasonable claims. In many counties the county surveyors had been instructed to inspect the schools from the point of view of their general condition, and that brought before them the question of ventilation. In a few cases in his own county he had accompanied the county surveyor in his examination of the schools, and he had been told by him that it was the rarest thing to find a school where there was any reasonable system of ventilation, and that the number of schools where the children, who might be supposed to have a vested interest in pure air, were unnecessarily brought within the purview of a state of things which could only be described as most insanitary was very great. On the walls of those very schools where they found bad systems of ventilation could be seen the advertisement of some great ventilating firm. Some of these firms sent round illustrations in the hope that their system of ventilation might be adopted, but they simply became the pictorial decorations of the walls of the schools. Over and over again well-intentioned managers had asked what they were to do in the matter, and the answer given them was that they should simply look at the pictures on the walls and they would see the blunders they were making.

The right hon. Gentleman the Member for Cambridge University had raised some far more difficult questions with regard to the health of the children from the point of view of medical supervision. One of the things which was most alarming was the terrible growth of lunacy in this country. There was no doubt at all that in every lunatic asylum in this country there were a certain number of cases which had found their way there through early neglect of the condition of fatigue of the human head. If a child never digested its food properly for want of mastication, a state of things was set up which ended in attrition of the digestive powers of the human body, and if the child happened to possess a weakly body, general weakness set in which told on the human brain, and eventually under very small pressure the mind of that person gave way and a certain number of cases went from those causes to increase the melancholy total, which was increasing year by year, of those who were inmates of lunatic asylums. There was no matter which ought to attract, in connection with this matter of the health of the children which had been raised in the very interesting speech of the right hon. Gentleman, the attention of the managers of the schools, difficult as the matter was, more strongly than to try to arrange that there should be from time to time a medical inspection of the children. The Local Government Board had already taken some steps in this direction. He knew it was very difficult to proceed in this matter, because very often these questions were met with ridicule. He recollected a discussion at a board meeting in regard to a circular upon this subject from the Department concerned, and a most excellent farmer he knew said in regard to it, "What nonsense all this is. If Providence intended a child to have good teeth the child would have them, and if Providence intended him to have bad teeth he would have them; and it was very absurd of the Local Government Board to try and interfere in these matters." He hoped that those County Councils which had taken the wise step of appointing County Medical Officers of Health would organise a regular system of inspection of the schools in regard to all these matters, and in that way he believed they would ultimately bring up the standard of the health of the population. Then they would not hear so much about the deterioration of our population. What they heard in regard to that matter the other day might be true or untrue; they were awaiting inquiry as to whether there was anything in the long and alarming tale. He believed there was unfortunately too much foundation for it in many cases, whether the whole of the tale was true or not. It was perfectly certain that there were many evils arising from remediable causes, and if they were able from the earliest age to have a thorough medical inspection of the children, to take some steps, difficult as it was in crowded towns, to organise a system of school meals, and to take steps for the purpose of securing good ventilation in the schools, he believed that in another generation they should hear less of the deterioration of the population, whether in town or country.

He heard with great satisfaction what fell from the hon. Gentleman in regard to the probationers and pupil teachers. The hon. Gentleman did not include in his good intentions the class of monitors, but it was quite certain that if they once touched the question of probationers and pupil teachers the position of monitors must very soon be affected. He understood the hon. Gentleman to wish that the pupil teachers' centres should be not discontinued, but continued in connection with secondary schools as much as possible, and that the pupil teacher should as far as possible be brought within the purview of an established system of secondary education. He was exceedingly glad to hear that, especially because in the county with which he had most to do they had during the past two years gradually introduced a system of that kind. They had succeeded under the Technical Education Acts in setting up an almost complete system of secondary schools, and they had brought almost all the pupil teachers into direct connection with these secondary schools. That had been done with the full approbation of the Department Inspector, Mr. Currie. If that system could be generally adopted he believed they should rapidly see a very great improvement in the condition of pupil teachers. If in addition to that it was possible to bring the pupil teacher, when he was undergoing his training, into University Colleges in the manner which had been suggested, and to diminish as much as possible his training in special colleges where he found the same kind of people as himself, and did not get the advantage of wider society and more mixed and general ideas, he believed they would be on the road to establishing a really good system of training for teachers. He saw no good reason why it should not be done. University Colleges were growing up in almost every part of England. The Eastern Counties had been mentioned as being rather unfortunately situated in that respect, and the suggestion was made that the great borough of Norwich should be encouraged to form a University College. He was not saying a word against that, but he would remind the Committee that East Anglia was not far from Cambridge, and, therefore, for all practical purposes, East Anglia was already supplied with University Colleges in those institutions which had been set up under the control of the University with most excellent results with regard to the training of teachers.

An observation fell from the hon. Gentleman which had led to some discussion in regard to the great necessity of taking care that, in the enthusiasm which had now set in for scientific education, they should not rush into the opposite extreme of the dangers they desired to avoid, and forget the importance of literary training. Formerly literary training had it all its own way. In the days when the Secretary to the Board of Education and himself were receiving their education they never had a chance of receiving any scientific education, even if they had desired to have it. Now there was perhaps a danger a little the other way, and some of those new secondary schools were perhaps driving the scientific side of their education a little too hard at the expense of literary subjects. He had often had the advantage not only of reading but of hearing opinions of Dr. Bell, who was now retiring from Marlborough College. He was universally admitted to be one of the greatest educational authorities in this country. He heard him the other day speaking of the very great importance of County Councils taking care in appointing directors, or secondary education Committees, to bear in mind the claims of literary training as well as scientific training, because he foresaw that just as in former years scientific education was unduly pushed aside in favour of literary education, so there was a danger now of literary education being pushed aside in favour of scientific education alone. When some Supplementary Estimates were before the Committee during the present session he raised the point whether it would be possible out of the Votes proposed to Parliament, for secondary schools formed by companies which paid dividends of 4 or 5 per cent., to receive grants. He said at the time it appeared to him to raise a very large question, because although the dividend might be only 4 or 5 per cent., it was not an unnatural question for the taxpayer to ask whether it was right and proper that moneys voted by Parliament should be used in paying the dividends of public companies. There was a venture of that kind on foot, not in his own county, but the neighbouring county, where expectations were put forward and formed on Government grants being received. He indicated then that he disapproved of the plan, and stated that he was anxious to know how the matter stood. In the interest of the promoters of the company it was right that they should know. He understood from the hon. Gentleman that such a vote of public money would not be possible to schools promoted by companies, and it was stated that none of the money then asked in the shape of an Estimate would be devoted to that purpose or in that way. He himself felt that the Supplementary Estimate was not affected by the question he raised. He was anxious to know what was the policy of the Government, and the impression left upon him by the answer he received was that it was not proposed to use public money in this manner. Now he found from a document which had been issued that it was distinctly laid down that companies of this kind paying dividends of 4 or 5 per-cent. were to be able to receive capitation grants and teaching grants from the Education Department. If that was so he hoped the Committee might have a clear statement why it was so, and whether the Government had really foreseen the difficult and awkward questions which might possibly be raised in connection with this matter.

*SIR WILLIAM ANSON said he should like to reply at once to what had fallen from the noble Lord in his concluding sentences. He did not think the noble Lord was in the House at the beginning of the statement he made. He certainly intended to apologise to him for having unintentionally misled him in the debate which took place in February last. He was then under the impression that the grants hitherto made to those company schools were to be discontinued this summer, and that none of the money voted by Parliament would be received by them. He stated in his speech just now that the Treasury had considered that these schools should continue to receive the grants until August next year, and that after that they should be discontinued.

LORD EDMUND FITZMAURICE said he was sorry he was not in the House at the moment that statement was made.

MR. VICARY GIBBS (Hertfordshire, St. Albans) said the by-laws promulgated by his hon. friend the Secretary to the Education Department alarmed and surprised him very much. He believed his hon. friend did not refer to the matter in his speech. It was for good or ill of so great importance that he thought it was desirable the attention of the Committee should be called to it, and that his hon. friend should have an opportunity of justifying his action in the matter. Under the old by-laws children who did not attend school for religious instruction were put to some secular work during the time religious instruction was being given. Under the new by-laws those children were now permitted not to come to school until the religious instruction had been given, and the result was that they had another hour's time free from school work which was not possessed by children whose parents desired that they should receive religious education. It appeared to him that it was nothing more nor less than a bribe to these poor people to withdraw their children from religious teaching for the sake of the money which they could make out of them by sending them to work. He was quite sure that that was not the intention of his hon. friend, but he was equally clear that that was the result in many cases. There was an immense number of parents who had no pronounced objection to the religious education of their children, but who did not like to pay so much per week for it, and the children suffered. As had been pointed out by the right hon. Member for Cambridge University, very many of the children were unfit to receive any instruction, moral or mental. That was very often caused by their being kept at work up to eight in the morning; but now, under the new by-law, they could be kept at work blacking boots or doing other work till nine. He was quite certain that when the Churchmen of the country came to learn of this new by-law they would say that they had been wounded in the house of their friends. He was quite sure that it would have a disastrous effect on the religious teaching of the children of the country, and would lead to the impression that the hon. Gentleman was not desirous that the children should obtain that religious teaching which, he thought, they all wished they should receive. Every parent who found it difficult or troublesome to pass on his children to school by nine o'clock in the morning would be tempted to profess objection to religious education, because he could keep the children at work an hour later. What a barren gift it was to the children to preserve to them the voluntary schools, if they were not sent to them for the purpose of religious education! He could not understand what justification there was for this alteration of the by-law. This matter was so important that he did not consider that this step should have been taken until the opinion of Parliament had been expressed upon it. He was astonished that his hon. friend had taken this step, and he felt sure that there must be some explanation for it which had entirely escaped the notice of his hon. friend.

*DR. MACNAMARA (Camberwell, N.) said that from an educational point of view he had listened with great interest to the extremely important and far-reaching pronouncement of the Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Education. It was more important still that the hon. Gentleman had evidenced a general desire to carry his ideas into practice. He would not go for the moment into the constitution of the schemes which the hon. Gentleman had adumbrated; but he could only say that it would have been of advantage if the July mood of the Board of Education had been more apparent last January. He, however, hoped that the July mood would be perpetuated. He had no doubt that the Parliamentary Secretary, who had the Board of Education behind him, would fully realise the enormous responsibilities and the enormous opportunities which the passage of last year's Act would place upon him. Last year's Act took one irrevocable step. A good many things were in that Act which would probably be removed, but they would not go back on that one step—the abolition of the system of obtaining the education of the children of England from charitable funds. They were now irrevocably fixed to the principle of public education from public funds. That imposed an entirely new responsibility on the Board of Education. The old system of voluntary contributions meant that half the children of the country went to schools, which, because of the impossibility of getting their income from charity, were manned by teachers largely juvenile, or by wholly unqualified adults. The classes were so large as to be unteachable; the premises were old, antiquated, and insanitary; the apparatus was very scanty and very ill-adapted for the purposes of education. The getting away from voluntary contributions plainly involved that the Board of Education must recognise the new state of things. The Board of Education had been compelled to fix its standards with regard to the exigencies of the voluntary schools. They winked at the shortcomings of the managers in a way they would not have done had the managers had proper funds forthcoming, and the managers did not carry out even the meagre obligations imposed upon them by the Board of Education. However, they were now at the beginning of a new era in public education as a public charge; and all the old shortcomings consequent on charitable contributions had disappeared. The cardinal feature was for the Board of Education to revise all its standards with discretion, and get away from the old system. The Act of last year had initiated this great reform, but it had been accompanied by very great irritation in the country which had nothing to do with the schemes referred to by the Parliamentary Secretary. That irritation did not appear to be disappearing, and it was accompanied by a great controversy. He thought that irritation was entirely justified, because, in putting the voluntary schools on the rates the public did not get complete control of these schools. Charitable contributions might have justified the imposition of a test on the head teachers over and above that imposed by public authority, but he denied the right of a private agency to claim to superimpose a denominational test on 20,000 out of 30,000 head teachers supported as they now were exclusively by public funds. The irritation would be maintained, and it seemed to him that it would be the duty of the Liberal Party to remove the shortcomings to which he had referred. Politicians would fight this out in the country, and they would see with what result; but the Board of Education should recognise that they had embarked on a new era.

He thought that the speech of the Parliamentary Secretary justified the hope that the Board of Education, through Mr. Morant and the exertions of the Parliamentary Secretary, would do much to improve elementary education throughout the length and breadth of the land; for they could not improve the higher education unless they had a sound foundation of elementary education on which to rest. He thought that the speech of the Parliamentary Secretary was a most happy augury for the future, and that the remarkable series of documents issued from the Board of Education within the last forty-eight hours justified the expectation in which he had indulged. Reference had been made to one of these documents—that relating to the training of pupil teachers. He considered that that was the most admirable educational monograph he had ever read; and that when put into operation, as he had no doubt it would soon be, the effect of it on the training of young people who were to become pupil teachers could not be over-estimated. They would in the first instance have, from the age of from thirteen to fifteen, to go into higher elementary schools; then they were not to be apprenticed till fifteen in the rural districts and sixteen in the towns, though he did not understand the reasons for this discrimination. He never understood that the rural children were more precocious than the town children. Next, after apprenticeship they must not work more than half-time as teachers. All this would make an enormous change in the condition of the training of a great many of the teachers of the country, and it need not be feared that it was a very drastic change. The Committee over which the Rev. Mr. Sharpe presided recommended all these reforms in 1898, and every one of them was to come into operation in 1900. Some of them were not to come into operation till 1904, and a certain number in 1905, so that there need be no anxiety that the changes were too drastic or too hurried. A good many of the great School Boards had carried out these proposals years ago, and he himself had had the opportunity, as Chairman of the Pupil Teachers' Committee and the London School Board, of carrying many of them out. There was therefore no head long speed on the part of the Board of Education. He wanted to appeal to the Parliamentary Secretary not to stop here, but that after having laid down the foundations he should see that public education at the public charge would go forward.

Other reforms would have to follow. There were employed in the day schools teachers under Article 68 who were over eighteen years of age, and who need have necessarily no other qualification whatever. There were at the present time 18,000 of those teachers in the elementary schools, 14,000 being in denominational schools. Their existence had never been justified except on the ground of the poverty of the voluntary system. Mr. Sharpe's Committee in 1898 recommended that if between 1898 and 1900 new appointments were made under Article 68 some education qualification should be submitted. That was a very reasonable and moderate request. The Committee also recommended that from 1900 those appointments should cease, but nothing whatever had been done. With the great change of last year, the argument of the poverty of the denominational system disappeared. Surely, therefore, he would not appeal in vain when he asked that in next year's Code notice should be given that after a certain date there would be no further appointments to the office of Article 68 teachers. They could not get rid of the 18,000 teachers who were now employed; but he thought it was fair and reasonable to ask that after, say, 1905 there should be no further appointments to this office. Then there was the old standard requirement, which was perhaps the most vital of all, apart from the important question of the condition of the children to which the right hon. Gentleman had referred sympathetically. That was the standard—laid down by the Government again because of the exigencies of the denominational system —as to the number of children each teacher should teach in an elementary school. In no country in the world were the classes so unteachably large, and the standard was admittedly founded on the exigencies of a system which had now disappeared. The head teacher, no matter how much he might have to do in the way of organisation and supervision, was personally responsible for the teaching of fifty children in average attendance, which might mean seventy-five different children. The certificated assistant teacher was responsible for the teaching of sixty children in average attendance, or perhaps eighty different children; the head pupil teacher for forty-five children in average attendance, or perhaps sixty children; and each pupil-teacher for thirty children in average attendance, or perhaps forty-five or fifty children. The Committee would be glad to know that the monitor had disappeared. (Sir J. GORST dissented.) If the late Vice-President had studied the Education Code he would see that monitors were not included.

SIR JOHN GORST said the monitors did not exist in the Education Code; but they still existed in the flesh.

*DR. MACNAMARA said he was dealing with teachers recognised by the Board of Education. Monitors were not recognised, and therefore they did not officially exist. The number of children to be taught by each teacher was fixed with regard to the poverty of half of the schools of the country; and he appealed to the Secretary to the Board of Education to give some indication of his views as to whether the number should not be substantially reduced. Nothing like it existed in any civilised system of which he was aware. In no other country were there classes of sixty or seventy children in the elementary schools; and the standard was fixed because of the difficulty of maintaining schools by charitable contributions. All that had now disappeared; and he claimed that those large classes should be materially reduced at the earliest possible date.

He deplored very much indeed the controversy which had arisen in the country in connection with the Act of last year. He thought, however, that that controversy and the irritation it caused were entirely justified because of the failure of the Act to submit rate-aided denominational schools to full control, and to free public servants, entirely paid from public funds, from denominational tests. There again he thought the Board of Education, and especially the Parliamentary Secretary, might, by by-laws such as that of which the hon. Member for the St. Albans Division spoke so disparagingly, do a great deal to soften the asperity and remove the bitterness occasioned by the Act of last year. The by-law of which the hon. Member for the St. Albans Division complained was, in his opinion, one of the most important that had been issued by the Board of Education for fifty years, and was pregnant with issues of the most far-reaching character. In the past if a parent desired his child not to attend religious instruction the child had to attend school nevertheless; and it was the duty of the school authorities to provide secular education for him in another room during religious instruction. The old by-law was in contravention, in his humble opinion, of Section 7 of the Act of 1870. The new by law was, however, an absolutely correct interpretation of that section. The new by-law stated that the time during which every child should attend school should be the whole time in which the school should be open for instruction, provided that where the parent had notified the managers in writing of his intention to withdraw his child from instruction in religious subjects, such time should be the whole time for which the school should be open for secular instruction only. The child need not come to the school until the time for secular instruction began. He did not know anything that could be of greater importance in its effect on the working of elementary schools than the new by-law. What would happen? In the first place, Nonconformists, especially in the villages, would withdraw their children generally. They were already taking steps to have what was called "a national withdrawal" from religious instruction in the Church schools. The Church people would also at once avail themselves of the opportunity to withdraw their children from religious instruction in the Board schools, so that they might receive religious instruction elsewhere. Indeed, the *Church Times* recommended that as an enormous boon to Church people. But the hon. Member for the St. Albans Division did refer to an exceedingly important phase of the matter; and that was that when the by-law was generally known, there was not a shadow of a doubt of what would happen. After fifty years of bitter agitation, and through a mere by-law, the public elementary schools of this country might be secularised. When the by-law became known people would say, "Very well, I will keep my child at home until the time for secular instruction begins." It was not a matter for the Committee; it was the inalienable right of the parents. The only fear he had was that it would seriously dislocate the whole work of the school, without any adequate reason. Clearly, in the case of provided schools the local authority would have the right of saying that the religious instruction should be given at the end of the sitting. He wished to know whether the local authority would also be entitled to say, as a condition of giving aid to a denominational school, that the religious instruction should be given in that school at the end instead of the beginning of a sitting, in order that the work of the school might not be dislocated. He was afraid that the new by-law would dislocate the working of the school; but he could not help that. It would also do two other things. The *raison d'être* of the special form of management for denominational schools would disappear. There would be no longer any reason for it. There would be every form of liberty and religious instruction that was wanted. The children could be withdrawn, or sent elsewhere, or kept at home; and they would get rid of what would be a thorny problem in this House some day—viz., the system of management given to denominational schools under the Act of last year. The by-law would do something else. When they had perfect liberty, what was the *raison d'être* for imposing denominational tests on teachers? That would have to disappear; and then they would be on the only solid foundation on which they could rest, namely, that when a public servant was paid out of public funds they had no right to superimpose any test upon him other than the qualification demanded by the public authority. He foresaw dislocation and difficulty; but he thought it could be met if the religious instruction were given at the end of the sitting. That would be a very good way out of the very difficult problem created by the Act of last year. The new by-law was a proper interpretation of Section 7 of the Act of 1870, which the old by-law was not.

There was one other matter, which was of such supreme importance that he was justified in calling attention to it. During the thirty-three years of the dual system a great many Church managers found themselves unable to continue their schools, as they were responsible in part for their maintenance, and they relinquished them, he should say to the number of thousands throughout the country. In London 354 Church and other denominational schools had been transferred to the School Board, but Section 24 of the Act of 1870, which was not repealed by the Act of last year, provided, if the managers could find the money to maintain them, for the transfer back of these schools to the denominational managers, if two-thirds of the School Board agreed to that course being adopted. That being so, a very serious situation was now created, because under the new Act there was no responsibility on the managers for maintenance, and only a very small responsibility for the upkeep and structural alterations, and now that the responsibility for maintenance had disappeared, applications would be made on all sides for the retransference of these schools which had been practically Board schools for the last twenty or thirty years. The teachers of those schools which were retransferred would be in a most serious position; they had been appointed as to a Board school without regard to what might be their religious belief, and the result to them would be that directly the schools were handed back to the managers the teachers would or might be dismissed on the ground of religious incompatibility, and there was no appeal for such a dismissal. The hon. Member then drew attention to the opinions expressed by the Secretary to the Board of Education, and the Prime Minister in the course of the discussion before the Act of 1902 was passed, and said he took it, and he hoped he was right in doing so, that every legitimate difficulty would be placed in the way of the retransference of these schools. If there was to be a transfer back to the denominational managers, then the school transferred must be treated as a new school, and all the forms for the opening of new schools must be complied with. If that was admitted, then the difficulties in the way of a retransference would be multiplied, and he thought it only right that they should be, because he did not think it right that a school which had for over twenty years been a Board school should be transferred back to Denominationalism.

MR. CRIPPS (Lancashire, Stretford) thought the hon. Member was raising an imaginary difficulty in the matter of these retransfers. The Act of last year provided guarantees in the event of such retransfers taking place, and he hoped that, while the Department saw that these were complied with, they would not put unreasonable difficulties in the way. One of the most important parts of the speech of the hon. Member was that in which he dealt with the operation of the Act of last year. The hon. Member recognised that the Act of last year operated in the direction of a great educational reform. He quite agreed, and the Parliamentary Secretary fully recognised the fact, that following on that great reform we ought to have other incidental reforms in order that the children of this country should get the full benefit of this the greatest educational reform we had had since 1870. There was one reference to the Act of last session to which he could not agree. He could not agree with the hon. Member opposite as to the irritation which had been aroused in some parts of the country with reference to the payment of the the education rate. He did not see why there should be more irritation over paying rates for these denominational purposes than in paying taxes for the same purposes, and he said this in full recognition of the fact that in his view no rates at all should be used for educational matters. He had always urged that a national expenditure should be met out of the national Exchequer. It was grossly unfair to put an additional expense on one-third of the wealth of this country and allow two-thirds to be allowed to go free in respect of the expenditure of what was a national system of education. The people who were raising this question under the plea of "passive resistance" referred to the rates because they thought that payment from the rates was in itself unpopular, and that, being unpopular, a demand of that kind lent itself very readily to prejudice. Apart from prejudice, he could not imagine for one moment how any one who claimed to be interested in education could take part in a movement which put obstruction in the way of carrying out what the hon. Member opposite had acknowledged to be a great educational reform.

As to the by-law, he thought they might exaggerate its importance, but if it meant what the hon. Member for Camberwell said it meant, then they could not have a worse by-law, or one more out of harmony with the true meaning of the Education Act of last year. The hon. Member for Camberwell supported the by-law, and said he thought it would have the effect of secularising the education of this country. If a by-law had been promulgated which would have the incidental effect of secularising the education of this country, that by-law should not be allowed to stand for one moment. The question of the secularisation of education was threshed out last year, and he thought he might say that, although there were different views of denominational education, and how the system of denominational education should be constituted, there was almost a consensus of opinion that sufficient religious provision should be made for all children whose parents desired to take advantage of it. It would be deplorable if, by a side-wind, all the work they undertook last year in order to preserve religious education to the children should be destroyed. Nothing could be more improper; nothing would be more likely to subvert the real intention of Parliament than the passing of a by-law of which the tendency would be to do away with denominational schools, and with those tests which a majority of that House thought were right, in order to ensure that they should have the particular form of denominational education they required. He asked the Parliamentary Secretary whether he agreed with the view that the effect of this by-law would be to secularise education, to weaken the denominational schools, and to take away the necessity of having denominational masters. If that was the view of the Parliamentary Secretary, he would take every legitimate step to get that by-law cancelled, because it would be entirely inconsistent with the action of the House last year, and with the views of those who desired religious education, of whatever denomination they might be.

As to the remarks of the hon. Baronet with regard to schemes, everybody would admit that he had taken a proper attitude in allowing local authorities to make their own schemes so far as they conformed to the main principles of the Act and did not purport to bind for all time their successors. He agreed that such guarantees should be provided, but, they having been provided, the local authorities ought to have, as nearly as possible, freedom. There was not only the question of the co-ordination of our various educational systems; there was the question of devolution as between the Board at Whitehall and the various local authorities, and it would defeat one of the great objects of the Act of last year if the Board of Education in any way unnecessarily interfered with the constitution of the local authorities. If the Board took to interfering in such matters instead of performing their proper duty of seeing that the level of education was maintained in all parts of the country, a severe blow would be struck at the Act of last year. There were two other matters to which he desired to refer. There was no doubt that the small grammar schools were, in many directions, going down the hill. Our system of education was in a condition of fluctuation, and there was more danger to be apprehended from that fact than from anything else in the educational arena. It was exceedingly dangerous not to have some fixed idea in educational aims. The old grammar schools did what they could to lay the foundations of a literary education, but at present they were in a nondescript position. To a great extent the old idea had been given up, and nothing definite put in its place. A proper educational system could not exist without some definite plan of action. Children must be given something which concentrated their attention and presented difficulties to be overcome. He did not believe in the "wishy-washy" form of education so much in vogue, the main principle of which was to do nothing well, to shun difficulties, and to get a smattering of all sorts of knowledge. He regarded with some alarm the tendency, even in the Universities, to spread the educational net too wide, which had the result of allowing all the true elements of education to escape in one direction or another, while the best system of mental training was pushed into the background in order that there might be put forward a large programme which looked well on paper, but which, from an educational point of view, was worth nothing at all.

He would not go into the question of training colleges except to say that they ought to be provided for by the State. If the ratepayers were to be expected to provide colleges for the training of teachers for the benefit of the country at large, there would never be a proper and effective provision for that most important feature in any educational system. He hoped the State would take this matter in hand, and deal with it properly. Another matter had reference to the cost of deaf and blind schools. At present the cost of these schools was very large, being about £36 per child per year. There was a provision in regard to these schools which did not exist in connection with any others—viz., that as much as one-third of the cost must be found from sources other than the rates and many of these schools in recent years had had to have recourse to their capital account to comply with that provision. The obligation was really unnecessary, and, if it were withdrawn, it would not be necessary to ask for either a larger grant or a larger payment from the Guardians, because sufficient economies could be effected to meet the difference. It was a serious matter that these splendid institutions, dealing with an unfortunate class of children, should go to the wall simply because such an obligation had, without any reason, been introduced, and he hoped the Parliamentary Secretary would be able to hold out hopes of the restriction being removed. Last year's Act was a great educational reform, and the nation looked to the Board of Education so to carry it out as to improve in material respects the education of the children of the country.

MR. YOXALL (Nottingham, W.) thought the hon and learned Member had been rather unfair to the hon. Member for Camberwell with regard to the by-law, and that the hon. Member for Camberwell had laid too much stress on what would happen as the result of that by-law. The by-law could not be adopted except by the consent of a majority of the authority, which consent was not likely to be given in places other than where the majority, being Nonconformist, felt very keenly the denominational difficulty of their children going to denominational schools, or where the majority, being Anglican, felt equally deeply the difficulty of their children going to the councils' schools. In actual practice there was no deep feeling with regard to Anglican children going to the councils' schools and receiving undenominational religious instruction; therefore, in the greater part of the country there would be no attempt to put the by-law into force to prevent the children of Church of England parents attending the religious instruction in the councils' schools. But in a locality where there was a large majority of Nonconformist parents, who objected to their children receiving the admittedly doctrinal religious instruction given in denominational schools, the by-law might be used as a convenient safety-valve, and might bring about in that locality a condition of peace which was far from existing just now. To that extent the by-law would be operative, and because he believed it would operate only in those districts where the difficulty was most keenly felt, he heartily accepted and commended it. He did not think it meant the secularisation of the instruction in denominational schools. With regard to the statement of the Parliamentary Secretary, he thought as he listened to it that there was an incongruity between the speech (not only in its matter but also in its tone) and what was taking place in educational circles outside the House. It was a speech of philosophic peace and academic calm; but outside the House they found a condition which was anything but peaceful or calm. He should like to take up some of the references made by the hon. and learned Member for the Stretford Division in respect to the "passive resistance" movement. The hon. and learned Member expressed the hope that no Member of the House would take a part in that movement. He (the speaker) had not sanctioned it, nor had he taken any part in it, but he was sorry to gather from the hon. and learned Member's remarks that he cast something like an aspersion on the motives of those who, in different parts of the country from a political and religious conscience, had taken up this attitude. There was a political conscience in this matter. It consisted in the time-honoured English belief that taxation and representation should go together, and that the expenditure of public money should be wholly under public control. The other part of the contention consisted in the belief that it was morally wrong to call upon people to provide money or take an active part in the provision of denominational teaching, whether for their own or other children, in which they themselves did not believe. He had been content to wait for the vindication of those two principles until what seemed to him the more important principle had been adopted—viz., until the children of the country were put in a position of having a thoroughly efficient education. Now that that had been secured, he was prepared henceforth to abandon some of the temporary complacency with which he had regarded the infringement of the principles he had referred to, and to labour for the vindication of those principles. He did not think they would have to wait long for an opportunity of vindicating those principles. Where public management was given public control should accompany it, and wherever schools were supported by public money no denominational teaching of any kind should be given.

He listened with the greatest sympathy and admiration to the speech of the hon. Baronet in which he dealt so eloquently with the social condition of the children of the country, but he thought it would be found from the experience of the teachers in the country that it was the greatest exaggeration to say that in regard to physique and health the children were going backward. Experience, so far as the teachers were concerned, went rather to assert that with reference to height, weight, sight, the condition of the teeth, and well-fed preparation before school, the children were improving and not going backward, and the present generation of school children were better fitted for school work than the previous generation. He hoped the Secretary to the Board of Education would not suppose that his work would be futile and the amendments he proposed to make in the administration of his office be rendered nugatory until they could obtain some means of bringing the physical condition of the children up to the ideal. There was much to be done before that could be reached. The defects would not be remedied by sending doctors and dentists to the children. The great reason why the £8,000,000 per year was not expended to the best possible effect consisted almost entirely in the brevity of the school life of the children and the irregularity of their attendance. These were matters which the Government could remedy to a very large extent without waiting for the slow growth of the physical and mental condition of the children towards the ideal. He need not tell the hon. Baronet that more than fifteen children out of every hundred were always away from school; that five of those fifteen had no excuse for being away, that nearly a million were never on the school books at all, and that the number of children who remained at school after twelve years of age hardly went into hundreds of thousands. If the hon. Baronet wished to render thoroughly effective the money spent on education he must do something by way of legislation for providing better means of inspection, and of bringing pressure to bear on the local authorities and the magistrates to improve the length of the life of the child at school and to secure its regular attendance.

Coming to secondary education he pointed out that the great defect of the system was that it did not make adequate provision for the transfer of the cleverer boys and girls in public elementary schools to the secondary schools. It was a hybrid system which did something for children whose parents could pay a high fee, but little for those whose parents could not pay such fees. It was said that the old grammar school was deteriorating, and why? Because it had ceased to fulfil its traditional function, and it was attempting a dual function. It had put off its old suit and put on a modern one which hardly fitted it. The system adopted elsewhere was not to have two sets of schools in one and the same institution, but to set up two different schools. A German scholar when he left the purely elementary school might pass either to the science school or to the language school. From the science school he could pass to the higher science school. If he went to the language school he could pass to the higher language school and then to the University. There was no attempt to put under one roof and one set of teachers two incongruous kinds of secondary education—the older and the more modern kind. He joined in the hope expressed by many hon. Members that something would be done to equalise the grants given to residential colleges and day training colleges. The hon. Baronet held out the hope that he might be able to announce something satisfactory in this way. As to teachers, he thought the only way of increasing the supply would be to make their career more attractive. This was a matter which rested with the Government and the Goverment alone, to remedy.

MR. ERNEST GRAY (West Ham, N.) said he had had during the last six months considerable opportunity of watching what had transpired in the various counties and county boroughs affected by the Education Act of last year, and, in particular, of noting the part played by the Board of Education, and he wished to take this opportunity of complimenting his hon. friend upon the aptitude which he and the officials of his Department had shown with regard to that enactment. They had a task of enormous difficulty to discharge. They had had to deal with every administrative county and borough, and a very large number of urban districts. The councils of some of them had, unfortunately, taken part in the political agitation which marked the closing months of last year. But when they found themselves face to face with the Act they forgot the part they took in politics, and braced themselves up to the administration of the Act. There was every prospect of the Board of Education falling into error, but, so far as he could see, the Board had met their task without delay. They had discharged their obligations with rapidity and unvarying courtesy in the whole of their dealings, both by official correspondence and the interviews which they had had with the great educational authorities throughout the country. If there was one task more difficult than another it was that of constituting, under orders of the Board of Education, the boards of management for the various voluntary schools of the country. He recollected that some years ago Mr. Acland remarked that any Minister who attempted to touch trust deeds would be immediately brought to grief. They had seen the Board of Education under the Act of last year interfering with the trust deeds of nearly every voluntary school throughout the country. He believed that at one date they had applications for 10,000 orders in their hands. There was every possibility of arousing suspicion and wounding the susceptibilities of people closely associated with these schools, and he thought it was a matter for congratulation that the Board of Education had managed to get through this mass of very difficult and complicated work with such a marked absence of friction. He could not help paying a tribute of commendation to the marvellous energy and great tact which had been shown by Mr. Morant, the permanent chief of the Board of Education, in carrying through this very heavy, complicated, and, he might say, very dangerous task. The work had been accomplished with satisfaction to the great majority of those who had at the present time to take part in the operations of the Act of last year. He realised that there were yet difficult places to face. There were a few councils up and down the country led by gentlemen who had taken a prominent part in politics in years gone by. For example, there was Durham Council, with Mr. Storey at its head. He was afraid that some people were thinking more of the political position than the educational position, and in many of those cases the difficulty was not yet met, but it was postponed. He did think it was a remarkable comment on the administration of the Act that out of about 330 possible education authorities under the Act of last year, only about half-a-dozen smaller districts had decided to relinquish, while, of the remainder, in over 200 cases the Act was actually in operation, if not both for elementary and higher education, certainly for higher, and the elementary would be transferred in the course of the next few weeks. In many of the districts the whole of the old Board schools had come under the control of those educational authorities with the advice and assistance of the Board of Education. That work had been accomplished with marked smoothness. On the first day possible some thirty-five districts took advantage of the Act. They were told last year that there was not the remotest possibility of anyone accomplishing the task in 1903, and that a few might come into operation in 1904. One was always interested in prophecies of that character when they were falsified. He thought it only his duty to bear this testimony to the work accomplished by the Board of Education.

He was sorry that the various documents dealing with the secondary schools and other important matters were not issued until within the last few days. It was practically impossible for any person to obtain a sufficient grip of them to intelligently criticise the new regulations. He should like to say this in regard to the scheme for the better training of teachers. He welcomed most cordially every clause of it. He was most anxious to see the great local authorities constituted under the Act of last year take the permission which the Board of Education now gave them and use it to the utmost of their power. He was heartily glad that the Board recognised the desirability of sending persons who were to become pupil teachers into higher grade schools for two or three years before they began work as pupil teachers. He was sorry the Board had not laid down a definite limit as to the number of pupil teachers to be employed in the schools. There was one phase of this scheme of training to which he would invite the attention of the Parliamentary Secretary. He agreed with his hon. and learned friend the Member for the Stretford Division, that the charge for the training of teachers should never on any consideration have been thrown on the locality. If public education was a national charge, then surely the training of teachers was of all phases of the work the most national in its character. Teachers were not trained to serve only in the county where they were trained, or to serve only in this country. They were trained to serve also in distant portions of the Empire, and surely it was absurd to throw upon the county or borough rate the cost of training persons whose services would be rendered to the State as a whole. There was also a very serious educational disadvantage under this system to which he would venture to refer. The moment they asked a great county, or even a county borough, to build, equip, and control a pupil teachers' centre, and then to follow it up by building, equipping, and controlling either an hostel in the nearest University or a training college within their own boundary, what did they do? The local authority insisted that none but their own pupil teachers should go into that centre. Anything worse for education he could hardly imagine. It had a most narrowing tendency upon the teachers themselves, and it hindered the work of education in the schools they were afterwards called to supervise. He would go so far as to penalise a local authority that appointed any teacher who had no experience or practice in any other part of the country.

He hoped the Board of Education would insist upon all those training colleges and hostels being open to students from all parts of the country. He hoped this would be done, because in the first place he was anxious that the teachers should be brought together from different parts of the country, and be able to compare experiences, and get that rubbing of shoulders which would be so beneficial when they were distributed amongst the schools. He desired also that the sympathy of the local authorities should be enlisted in the endeavour to have the cost now borne by the local rates thrown upon the National Exchequer.

Reference had been made by the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Cambridge University to the fact that during the past few months the Board of Education had sanctioned the erection of inordinately large schools. Such schools had been sanctioned at Halifax and Leicester. In one case, he believed, a boys and girls school had been sanctioned for 1,200 scholars. In his judgment, speaking as an old teacher, no one person could properly exercise supervision over that number. In the closing sentences of the right hon. Baronet's speech, he expressed the hope that some people would come forward to look after those children when they were about to conclude their school work and go out into the world. The German teacher had as a rule the advice of every parent as to what his child was going to do in after life. The German teacher secured by the better organisation of the school, and the small size of the classes an opportunity of knowing something of the personality, the ability, and the bent of every scholar under his control. That could never be got in those great barrack institutions which the Board of Education had sanctioned. He understood that the Board had laid down a rule that not more than 400 pupils should be accommodated in each department. Why was that departed from, and sanction given to 1,000 being accommodated in one department? He would watch with very considerable interest not as to where these schools were, but as to the reasons which had induced the Board of Education to depart from what he understood to be the fixed policy of the Board. He would like to urge on the Board of Education the advisability now of cancelling, or certainly materially modifying, the declaration which students were called upon to make when they went into a training college. Every student had to sign a declaration that he would, on quitting the college, serve only in public elementary schools. Two years ago the Colonial Secretary, with his usual force, insisted that in colonial schools the teachers should be free from such a declaration, because he desired to get teachers trained in some of the great English colleges, and the declaration stood in the way. There was one case in which a teacher who had quitted the training college thirty-three years before was asked to repay to the State the cost of his training in the college because he accepted a situation in other than a public elementary school. That was absurd. Teachers should not be trained for any particular form of school, but for all types of schools, and for all establishments recognised by the State as educational. This was the more desirable now that higher and elementary education were put under one authority, and when the work was co-ordinated. It seemed to him ridiculous to ask a student solemnly to declare that on quitting college he would go into one type of school, and not into another.

He would like to ask the Parliamentary Secretary whether he could state, not in detail but generally, what the policy was which the Board of Education proposed to adopt in regard to school inspection? Some of them had been a little disturbed to learn that when a chief inspector was required he could not be found within the ranks of the English inspectorate, but that the Department went to the antipodes for a gentleman to fill that post. He would like to know what qualifications Mr Cyril Jackson possessed which specially fitted him for the chief inspectorship? He knew that that appointment had been regarded with serious heart-burning. It was regarded as a slur on the English inspectorate, and some were inclined to quit the service of the State and seek employment under local authorities. That appointment needed some justification, and he hoped the hon. Baronet would do his best to justify it. He for one, and he knew many agreed with him, regarded the introduction of the system of inspection, as against the old system of individual examination, as a great boon. Was that to be continued? Was it to be broken down by the local authorities appointing inspectors who would insist on examining each individual scholar on every subject? If so, the last state was going to be worse than the first. He expressed the hope that the Board of Education would insist on being paramount, that the system of general inspection would be maintained, and that the local authorities would not attempt to work the two altogether incompatible systems in one and the same school. He knew that some of the London authorities, particularly the London School Board, had a hankering after the Egyptian fleshpots. The true purpose of education—intellectual development and formation of character—could not be attained by individual examination. All the work that was done in the schools should be to equip the scholars, not for an annual examination, but for after life. He knew of nothing which would be so disastrous as to slip back into a system for the sake of getting results which could be tabulated and talked about. He had seen the Vice-President of the Council twenty years ago stand at the Table and declare that everything was going on satisfactorily, that the passes in that year were ·5 better than last year, and that something else was 1½ per cent. better than the year before. The House and the country were deluded into the belief that everything was going well in the public schools. He, for one, rejoiced immensely that the Parliamentary Secretary had had the courage to tell the Committee and the country that things were not satisfactory in the schools, and that much more required to be done. He hoped that the Parliamentary Secretary would be able to give some assurance that the working of the schools of the country would not be allowed to slip back into the old evil system of individual examination. He was not at all anxious to get results which could be served up in tables. That system had taught the children to hate the schools far more than physical punishment, and it was a system which kept the evening schools empty.

Mr. BRYCE said he wished to join in expressing the pleasure with which the Committee had listened to the statement of the Secretary to the Board of Education. It was not only marked with great lucidity and precision, but showed his perception of what the educational needs of the country were, and breathed throughout a spirit of fairness and conciliation, which was illustrated by the action of the Board of Education in dealing with the constitution of the Education Committees under the Act of last session. So far as he had followed the hon. Baronet, it seemed to him that the Parliamentary Secretary had grasped the meaning of the Act, and that the desire of Parliament was to let the local authorities have their own way, compatible with the provisions of the Act. The hon. Baronet had exactly apprehended what was in the mind of Parliament, and he was glad that the Department had adopted a view which was likely to make the Act work easily.

There were two matters for regret, however. One was, that so much work should have been so suddenly thrown on these already over-burdened authorities. What had passed in some of the counties led him to believe that in this respect their apprehensions had not been exaggerated. He knew cases where the local authorities could not see how they were to deal with the large accumulation of work connected with elementary education, if they were to attend also to the work of secondary education. That was a difficulty which the Board of Education would have to get over. The other point was as to the presence of women on the Committees. The Amendment moved by the right hon. Member for East Somerset had made it necessary that there should be at least two women on every Committee, but that, apparently, had not been the construction adopted by the Board of Education. He thought the better construction of the sub-section would be that there ought to be more than one woman on each Committee. The Board of Education had not, however, taken that view, because in a great many cases Committees had been constituted in which only one woman had been appointed. One was certainly not enough. He thought the help which women could render would be much improved if there were at least two on each Committee, although two would not in his opinion be enough. The Lancashire County Council had appointed two women, one to attend to elementary education, and the other to secondary education. But it was perfectly clear that with the tremendous amount of work which must fall on one woman who looked after elementary education, she would not be able to grapple with that part of the work which naturally fell to women members, and for which members of the other sex naturally looked to them for guidance. There were a great many questions regarding which women could render the greatest possible service; and he saw with very great regret the inadequate number of women who had been placed on the Committees. He hoped the hon. Gentleman would tell them a little more about what had been done with regard to the endowments, and also with reference to the trust deeds. The facts as to the principles on which the trust deeds had been altered, and the number of cases dealt with, would be of interest. He wished to join in what had been said as to the admirable qualities and services of Mr. Sadler, and could not help feeling that, somehow or other, means ought to have been taken to avoid the loss of those services. He had the pleasure of knowing Mr. Sadler, not only personally but officially, because he was a valuable member of the Education Commission. Without anticipating the discussion to be brought on later, he wished to express his great regret that Mr. Sadler's services should have been lost to the country, and he thought that means should have been taken to avoid that loss. The right hon. Gentleman the Member for the Stretford Division dealt in a somewhat controversial spirit with the question of the by-law raised by the hon. Member for St. Albans. He could not agree that the tendency of the by-law would be to secularise education. He knew that an opposite view was taken of it by some of the unsectarian party, who looked upon the by-law as one which might be worked in sectarian interests. He himself did not share those feelings, and he did not think the by-law was open to the censure of hon. Gentlemen opposite or of those who advocated sectarianism.

MR. CRIPPS said he was speaking of the view put forward by the hon. Member for North Camberwell.

MR. BRYCE said he thought his hon. friend repudiated the view attributed to him by the hon. and learned Gentleman. At any rate, the view he himself took up was that the by-law was an eirenicon, and the Board meant neither to favour one party nor the other, but to suggest a way of escape out of the difficulties that arose.

MR. VICARY GIBBS said his ground of complaint was that the by-law was a temptation to the parents to cause the children to do manual work instead of receiving religious education of any kind.

MR. BRYCE said he did not know whether that might be the case in a few instances. But the cases in which these difficulties arose were chiefly cases of rural parishes, where there was not likely to be so much temptation to turn the child on for half-an-hour in the morning. He could understand that in the populous districts of towns a child might be employed to sell newspapers and do other work. He believed the tendency of the by-law would be to promote peace, and they ought to have a much longer experience of its operation before taking the view which had been put forward, that it would secularise the schools. As to retransfers, he hoped it was shown conclusively by the declaration of the Secretary to the Board of Education and of the Prime Minister, as well as by looking at the spirit of the Act of 1870, and also the tendency of Section 8 of the Act of last session, that these cases ought to be regarded as cases in which the principles of Section 8 ought to be applied, as well as the principles of Section 24; and that no retransfer ought to be allowed except under the utmost safeguard provided by the Act of 1870 and also the Act of last session. He was glad to gather that that also was the view of the Secretary to the Board of Education. The hon. and learned Gentleman opposite delivered an impassioned speech on the subject of tests. They did not generally discuss the question of tests with the fervour displayed by the hon. Gentleman, who endeavoured to represent the Bill of last year as a great educational reform. In the view of many of them, however, so far from being a great reform it was the reopening of a great and embittered controversy. They were likely to see tests become more and more the subject of an embittered controversy, after which the tests would themselves finally perish.

The Secretary to the Board had raised two questions of great interest. One was that of the physical condition of children, which had also been dealt with very fully by the right hon. Member for Cambridge University on this occasion, and on the Vote for Scottish Education. It was a question eminently deserving the attention of every one. He should like to know whether the Secretary to the Board intended to institute any inquiry in England similar to that which was instituted in Scotland. Some typical districts might be taken, especially urban districts, with a view of showing how far the facts elicited with regard to Scotland were true in England also. He apprehended that those facts would be found to be true also of parts of London and of the northern towns. To make an inquiry of that kind ought to be possible without great expense or delay, so that some remedial measures might be taken. He felt sure the matter would be entertained sympathetically. The other topic was the position of science teaching in the grammar schools. It was a question of the greatest possible importance, and he was very glad it had attracted the attention of the hon. Gentleman. He had himself for years past endeavoured to get the House to understand the revolution which was taking place in the education given in the secondary schools of this country, a revolution which was by no means confined to the grammar schools, for it obtained in those schools which had largely superseded them, the higher-grade schools, as they used to call them, and in a number of newer schools which were not grammar schools technically. In all these schools the science teaching had been growing and the teaching of literary and human subjects had been vanishing, or suffering from a kind of atrophy. Science, which up to some thirty or forty years ago had been entirely neglected and excluded from the great bulk of our secondary schools, had now taken a terrible revenge, and one which was becoming dangerous to the interests of this country. Under the influence of science and art grants and of grants made for technical education to County Councils, the literary teaching was more and more pressed out of the programme, as there was less money to be earned by them. It would be absurd for any one to deal with this question as though indifferent to the merits either of the one type of training or of the other. It was clear that they were both necessary branches of a proper education, and that both ought to have adequate provision. What was it that was being done now? Very little education, and that of a poorer sort, was being given in literature, very little in history, in grammar, or in geography. On the other hand, scientific education of a sort was being given very largely to boys who would never have occasion to use science in their daily life at all.

Too much could not be done to make provision for scientific education for those who were going to embark in any branch of industry in which scientific knowledge would be useful. We were suffering from the want of competent leaders of scientific work, and scientific advisers in the great industries. He could enumerate a number of industries which had quitted the country because we had not a sufficient number of competent trained scientific workers. It must not be thought he was indifferent to that branch of the subject. But take the case of the average boy who was going to be a clerk or to fill one of the humbler walks in the literary or clerical profession. It was clear that a knowledge of science would be of value to him only in so far as it was made a part of a liberal education, and stimulated his mind, awakened his intelligence, and gave him an idea of scientific method, and of the nature of scientific evidence and how scientific method ought to be applied not only in science but in the daily walk of whatever profession he might follow. But his complaint was that as generally imparted, scientific instruction was not stimulating in that way. It was to a very large extent the mere cultivation of the memory, and was treated in a dull and lifeless way.

It was quite true that there were many teachers who could not make literary teaching stimulating to the mind. But he believed it was more difficult still to make scientific teaching stimulating to the intelligence, and the number of teachers was much smaller who could so teach science as to awaken the intelligence than the number of those who could do that by literary teaching. Further, there was this advantage in literary teaching—however dull the teacher might be, the mind of the pupil was brought into contact with the great moral influences of the phenomena of language, which was in itself stimulating. Still more was that the case if he were brought into contact with good literature. The boy brought into contact with good literature acquired the power of reading and enjoying what he read. He got something which would be a source of benefit and pleasure to him for all the hours of his life, and if his teacher was incompetent he had advantages brought in his way on the literary side of his teaching which he could not enjoy unless the teacher was eminently competent on the scientific side of teaching. He believed that was how the matter presented itself to the mind of the Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Education. He welcomed his observations upon the subject, and he hoped he would continue to bear the matter carefully in mind. He did not for a moment disparage the importance of science as part of the liberal education of everybody, and as forming a special education for those who were to turn it to account, but that was quite compatible with the necessity of preserving the literary side of instruction in our schools. He hoped the Board of Education would do all that it could to keep before the minds of the local authorities the duty of organising secondary education, and bringing it abreast of the needs of the times.

* SIR F. S. POWELL (Wigan) congratulated the right hon. Gentleman upon having brought forward the neglect of literary teaching which constituted so great a danger to this country at the present time. The right hon. Gentleman had confined his remarks on this point to the case of boys, but what had struck him most in his visits to these schools was the scientific instruction given to girls. He believed much of the information conveyed to girls in the course of a comparatively late period of their education on scientific subjects was utterly and entirely useless to them. He was quite certain that good service had been rendered by calling attention to the subject; because, as the school age had advanced, there was no doubt some difficulty in devising useful employment of the years spent at school; and the school hours being increased, an opportunity was given for giving more literature. He hoped more literature would be given, and that the evil of the danger which we were now experiencing would be removed. He repeated an expression of the anxiety in the minds of many friends of the voluntary schools caused by the nature of this new by-law. There was a feeling among the friends of voluntary schools of great alarm. He believed the effect of the new by-law would be that children would be employed in earning some small wages instead of receiving religious instruction. It was not, in his opinion, a question between the Church, the Roman Catholic and the undenominational schools; but a question between religious teaching on the one hand, and the spending of time which ought to be given to religious teaching in either earning money or in mere wanton idleness, on the other. He believed that this new by-law would remove from the parents inducements to send their children to school at an early hour, and that it would be prejudicial to the education of the children. One point to which he desired to refer was the new Memorandum which had been issued during the last few days with reference to the secondary schools. It appeared to him that that memorandum was almost sure to produce wholesome results. He thought the competition between certain old grammar schools and technical schools had done great harm to education. There had been duplication, and in consequence weakness arose. Great injury was done by driving out of the field one school financially inferior to the other, although probably educationally superior. It many cases old grammar schools had been most seriously injured by new technical schools.

Those old grammar schools had been performing valuable service to the community, and were now not only rendering no service, but were rather an incumbrance and an obstacle. He congratulated the right hon. Gentleman on his schemes. He had examined many, and the scheme for the borough which he had the honour to represent had created the greatest satisfaction, and would do a great deal to vitalise education throughout the borough, and it would, he hoped, lead to there being secondary schools where at present they were sadly wanted. He congratulated the Government on the successful administration of the Bill passed last year, and he hoped that any difficulties that arose would be successfully dealt with. Those who were in this House ten years hence would have to thank the Government which he had the honour to support for the blessing they had conferred upon the country in passing the Educational Act of 1902.

MR. ALFRED HUTTON (Yorkshire, W.R., Morley) expressed his satisfaction at the speech of the hon. Baronet, and more especially at the latter part, which dealt with educational matters alone. It was quite true that less friction had occurred than might have been expected, and they might congratulate themselves that the Board of Education had got rid of a great deal of the burden by following the only path open to them, which was submitting to the wishes and desires of the various councils.

And, it being half-past Seven of the clock, the Chairman left the Chair to make his Report to the House.

Committee report Progress; to sit again this evening.

EVENING SITTING.

LONDON AND NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY BILL [LORDS] (BY ORDER.)

Read the third time, and passed, without Amendment.

SUPPLY.

[16TH ALLOTTED DAY.]

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. JEFFREYS (Hampshire, N.) in he Chair.]

Sir F. S. Powell.

CIVIL SERVICES AND REVENUE DEPARTMENTS ESTIMATES, 1903-4.

CLASS IV.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a sum, not exceeding £5,249,806, be granted to His Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1904, for the salaries and expenses of the Board of Education, and of the various establishments connected therewith, including sundry grants-in-aid."

MR. ALFRED HUTTON said the fact that the difficulties which beset the schemes had been so easily settled did not justify the hon. Baronet in supposing that the schemes were entirely satisfactory, because while the local authorities and the Committees were disposed to do a great deal of work, the success of the schemes could not be tested until some time had elapsed. With regard to secondary schools and the division between the A and B schools, he would point out what appeared to him likely to be the outcome of the limitations of this system. The grant was only paid for children of from twelve years of age up to sixteen, and there were three classes of schools dealing with the education of children of that age. Many of the so-called Universities now cropping up everywhere were scrambling for students and willing to take them at the age of sixteen, but such Universities were really only secondary schools, and did not give a University training. He thought the hon. Baronet should take care that any school which received a grant as a secondary school should have a more advanced class of work, extending to university training for boys and girls up to the age of eighteen, otherwise there would be a hiatus between the training given by these secondary schools and the training given at the Universities. It was in the interest not only of the secondary schools, but also of the Universities, that this should be done. Unless the Government insisted that these schools should have a university system and curriculum they would, in his opinion, lose a very great opportunity. The hon. Baronet had referred to a notorious fact in connection with the education given at secondary schools and that was that the education given was very often of a very narrow kind. For instance, in history the children were taught all about the Wars of the Roses and nothing else, and that illustration applied to all other branches of study. He thought the reason for that was because the Government recognised a certain class of examination which the schools looked upon as a source of good advertisement for themselves, and educated the children up to pass. He thought the Governmental system of examination was hurtful, and that it would be advantageous to the education of the children if the Government reduced their examinations to two or three He was glad the hon. Baronet the Parliamentary Secretary had given his attention to the question of pupil teachers, which had long been a crying scandal. It had not been a cheap, but a very extravagant method of teaching. Large sums of money had been spent on the training of boys and girls as pupil teachers who had been of no future use to the service. It would be interesting to have a return of all the boys and girls who had received grants for becoming pupil teachers, and who had been trained but who either failed to become efficient teachers or entered another calling. The Department ought to encourage local authorities to turn their pupil teacher centres into secondary schools in the broadest sense. This would have this advantage—that it would bring boys and girls destined for other walks in life into immediate relationship with those who were going to become teachers, and also be of advantage to the teachers.

MR. MIDDLEMORE (Birmingham, N.) drew attention to the great urgency of secondary education in England. He admitted that the hon. Baronet had said much that would content them, and that in the regulations he had published there was not a little that was good, but they had heard nothing in the present debate about an increased grant, which was an essential point for education. It was a matter for the self-respect of this country that the Government should do more for the secondary education of the people. It was true that the subject was to be helped in a more general way, but not in a more generous way. The same amount was to be spent on secondary education as previously. The last man he had heard call attention to the urgent necessity of this was the late Archbishop of Canterbury, who, in another place, rose superior to his physical infirmity, and in the course of the greatest speech he had ever heard, in which he displayed a unique manhood, expressed his great regret that the Government had in the Act of last year done nothing to forward secondary education. Secondary education was as necessary as primary education. His experience was that if primary education was to be the be-all and end-all, if it was to have no power of development, there would be no ambition among either teachers or scholars. If they looked at the schools of America they would see that all the teaching was given with a view to higher teaching beyond. The schools in America could not sink to the English level. If a really sharp boy ran through his school course quickly, what was he to do? He might be too young to work, he was not fitted for the technical school, and so he took to street loafing. He had found most brilliant boys who had passed the seventh standard had come to a certain charity to be helped because, in the interval between leaving the primary school and going to work, they had gone to the bad. It was better to be a dull boy, because he could remain longer at school under discipline and training. He would be grateful if the right hon. Gentleman on the Treasury Bench could give some assurance that something would be done of a really worthy kind for secondary education next year.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE said the hon. Baronet the Member for Oxford University had referred to the miserable state of semi-starvation in which a large number of children were brought to the schools. What he had said was true, and it was also true that a number of children never went to school because the compulsory officers had not the heart to drag them there. The hon. Baronet had asked what was the remedy for that state of things. He might say incidentally that the proper remedy for a state of things in which children were in a state of semi-starvation was not to tax their food, and he was glad that the hon. Baronet was prosecuting his inquiry on sensible lines. As to ventilation, he considered it essential to the health and efficiency of the children, and he thought a good deal might be done by the Board of Education if they would press on the inspectors the importance of improving ventilation. In some schools the air was absolutely offensive, and good results could not possibly be obtained in such conditions. The startling statement had been made that the Board of Education were in the habit of sending back reports to inspectors to be corrected. That was an extraordinary state of things. It had always been a cause of perplexity that schools which were inefficient, inadequately staffed, and did not possess proper apparatus, should have succeeded in getting as good reports as thoroughly efficient schools, but the reason was now clear. The Board of Education had intervened, and said—"This report will not do; this school is teaching definite Christian dogma, and that ought to make up for what is wanting in other respects." Now that the County Councils were taking over the responsibility for these schools the reports would no longer be cooked. The suggestion had been made that some of the children should be fed. That he thought an admirable idea; but he believed it would be impossible to discriminate, and he hoped that if the practice were adopted it would be adopted all round, especially as all the parents would be bearing their share of the burden of the rates.

The hon. Baronet had told the Committee a good deal about the working of the Education Act, but what he had left untold was far more important than what he had told. In language that seemed to have been culled from the King's Speech, he said that his relations with County Councils were of the most friendly character. He doubted, however, whether the hon. Baronet had been getting on so well with the County Councils; at any rate, all his officials had not, and probably the hon. Baronet was not aware of all that was going on in his name. He would like to know what the Board of Education were prepared to do to face the difficulties which had arisen in the working of the Act. Experience had borne out the prediction made at the time of the passing of the Act. With regard to schemes, the hon. Baronet said that in respect to some things the Board of Education had confined themselves to suggestions, and that in respect to other things there was insistence. They had, it appeared, varied a good deal. At first it was all insistence and no suggestion. [Sir WILLIAM ANSON shook his head.] But the hon. Baronet did not know. He was not present at these interviews between representatives of local authorities and the Board of Education. No doubt, so far as he was concerned, he confined himself to suggestions. But the things which he said were suggestions took the form of pressure—he did not wish to use the word hectoring, but he could find no better word to describe what took place at these interviews. The Department was converted into a sort of Star Chamber, and poor mayors, ex-mayors and aldermen were haled up from all parts of the country and appeared tremblingly before this great inquisition. Afterwards it occurred to some of the representatives of these authorities that even officials of the Board of Education could not override an Act of Parliament. The officials had attempted to dictate to these corporations that they must put in representatives of outside bodies. They had since climbed down.

*SIR WILLIAM ANSON said there had never from the beginning to the end of the Board's dealings with local bodies been any suggestion of compulsion to put in representatives of outside bodies.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE said he accepted the hon. Baronet's statement so far as he was personally concerned. But the thing had been done. He had it on the authority of a gentleman who was present at the interviews. The Act, however, said—

> "Every such scheme shall provide for the appointment by the council, on the nomination or recommendation, where it appears desirable, of other bodies. . . ."

Surely this meant where it appeared desirable to the local education authority. If the latter did not think it desirable, what right had an official to come and dictate to them in the matter? The hon. Baronet had said, "We must have all types." He talked of a local education committee as if it were a sort of museum where samples of all sorts of people ought to be put into a glass case and ticketed. There was no objection to South Kensington having something to do with education, but it was carrying it too far when they brought their glass-case notions into the local authority business of the country. Business men were elected by the people because of their capacity for dealing with local affairs, and if they were not elected for educational administration that was due to the Government introducing a Bill to place educational duties upon them and forcing it through before the people had an opportunity of electing men for the purpose. On the Welsh County Councils there were men experienced in all branches of education, and why should they go outside when they had better men among themselves? It was an attempt at dictation not warranted by any authority given by Parliament. He was glad that local authorities were beginning to stand up, and that they were determined to stand no more petty bullying from officials. The only attempt by a Welsh County Council to introduce into its scheme anything about delegation was with regard to a joint Committee which controlled the whole affair. That was a rather different thing from that to which the hon. Baronet objected. Unless such a provision were in the scheme it would be impossible for a Welsh County Council to agree as to numbers and so forth. It would not prevent them cancelling the authority at any point if it was found not to work, and he hoped the Parliamentary Secretary would be able to make an exception in that respect.

How was it that nothing had been heard in the hon. Baronet's speech of the real difficulties that had arisen? It was an unpleasant thing for local authorities to have to sell up some of their best citizens; but it was a task cast upon them by the Government, who should not leave them in the lurch. The Government flung this Act at local authorities who had not asked for it; these difficulties were foreseen, they had arisen, and now the Government had ignored them, simply writing letters to the papers saying that a certain course of action was very wrong and very wicked. But that did not settle the matter. What did the hon. Baronet propose to do? If these were illegal conspiracies, what steps were the Government going to take? The hon. Baronet had answered a question from the hon. Member for Tunbridge, prompted by a bishop in Wales, and had said that the resolutions of County Councils to contribute nothing but the Government grants to the maintenance of voluntary schools was in contravention of the Act. It was not so, for the councils had excellent reasons, both "special" and "educational," for the conclusion at which they arrived. They declared that they could not maintain the same standard of efficiency in schools that were not under their control as in schools where they had control. That was a good educational reaaon; therefore their action was not illegal. Three-fourths of the Welsh County Councils would decline to squander the public money upon schools not within their control, and where sectarian tests were imposed. That was the situation the Government had to face. What were the Government going to do? The hon. Baronet had made a long and interesting speech upon the educational outlook, ignoring the great topics that were absorbing public attention. He was glad that in regard to schemes the Department had seen the wisdom of climbing down. They had set the example in breaking the law; they were active breakers of, not passive resisters to, the law, and they were the last people in the world who ought to find fault with other people for breaking the law. What now would the Government do? While citizens were being sold up amid scenes of riot and disturbance, and the Government did nothing, education and good government suffered.

*SIR WILLIAM 'ANSON said he desired now to answer, as far as he could, various questions put to him. The right hon. Gentleman the Member for Cambridge University had referred to sanction given by the Board to arrangements contravening their own rules, and had put specific questions on the subject. To these he had to say that there were special circumstances which made it incumbent upon the Board to give their sanction. The new building rules only came into force at the end of last year, and the Board had been compromised by assent given earlier. In one case he had had to give way because the right hon. Gentleman had passed the plans for the building some years before, and it was impossible to go back upon them.

SIR JOHN GORST supposed his hon. friend meant that this had been done by the Board of Education during the time when he was Vice-President; but he was not personally responsible.

*SIR WILLIAM ANSON fully recognised the distinction. With regard to ventilation, and other minor matters, he would undertake they should be attended to. Two other matters were of larger importance and more difficult to deal with; and first of these was the inspection of children by teachers, with a return showing the number of children who were well and ill-fed, and periodical medical examinations. What the Board could do in these matters he was not at present prepared to say. Then he came to the suggestion of the hon. Member for Camberwell as to whether they recognised the importance of the training of the teachers, and he rather pressed upon the Committee the incompetence of some of the teachers and the importance of their immediate abolition. He thought the Code did provide for an increase of competent teachers, because there was in small type under Article 68 a statement that, as a condition of continued recognition, the Board might require such arrangements to be made for the training of these teachers as the circumstances of the case might render expedient. They did recognise that, and they were endeavouring to provide that the teachers should be qualified. There were difficulties in the way—as, for instance, they could not reduce the number of children in a class until they had reached what the hon. Member for Camberwell regarded as an adequate staff of teachers. The hon. Member must bear in mind that the supply of teachers was necessarily limited, and they could not abolish one sort of teacher until they had supplied another sort. But he would repeat that they fully recognised the desirability of improving the quality of the teachers. He also recognised the desirability of reducing the size of classes; but these matters, on which the hon. Gentleman the Member for Camberwell dwelt, were not to be dealt with all at once. All he could say was that he recognised the importance of them, and they were under the consideration of the Board, so that methods might be found for dealing with them. The hon. Member asked for information about the voluntary schools which had been transferred to School Boards in previous years, and which, under Section 24 of the Act of 1870, would be re-transferred under certain conditions, and he asked for an assurance that the Department would impose every reasonable obstacle in the way of such re-transfers taking place. The Board of Education, in spite of what had just fallen from the hon. Member for Carnarvon, was a law-abiding body, and in asking the Department to introduce obstacles to the carrying out of a lawful event, he thought the hon. Member was asking a good deal. Such re-transfers were subject, not merely to the provisions of Section 24 of the Act of 1870, but to the provisions of Section 8, Sub-section 3, of the Act of last year, and consequently any such school would be regarded as a newly-provided school. He hoped that would reassure the hon. Member that all lawful means would be taken to secure that the re-transfer of such schools was not to be hastily or improperly done. There appeared to be some misconception as to the by-law. It appeared to be regarded as compulsory and novel, but it was neither. Certain local authorities asked for model by-laws, and they sent down a set of what they conceived to be the best.

*SIR FRANCIS POWELL: Did they include this new by-law?

*SIR WILIAM ANSON: Certainly; this model by-law would go down to the local authority; but it rested with the local authority whether they adopted it or not. So far as sectarian or unsectarian was concerned, they simply looked at it from the Act of 1870, and the old by-laws; and the Board had to make the by-laws correspond exactly with the law. He believed he was following the sections of the Act of 1870, and that the new by-laws corresponded exactly with that Act. It had been suggested that in consequence of the by-law children would be kept away from school, not because of any question of religious education, but because they were employed by their parents or others in their homes or elsewhere. If that was so the local authority could intervene at once; the matter could be brought before the magistrates as a question of school attendance, and then it would be a question whether the by-law had been applied in a *bonâ fide* way. It had been suggested that the by-law would be applied in an improper way, but he believed the suggestion was wholly unfounded. He thought these remarks disposed of the points raised by the hon. Member for Camberwell. The hon. Member for Stretford had asked him a question as to the deaf and blind schools in reference to a change in the law which he thought would give greater effect to the teaching in those schools. So far as he understood the object of the hon. and learned Member he sympathised with it, but it was a matter which could not be dealt with by the Department. The hon. Member for West Ham had complained that students on entering a training college were required to declare that they meant to pursue the avocation of an elementary teacher, and had said they ought to be free when leaving the training college to be secondary or elementary teachers. He could not agree with that. The training colleges gave specific instruction for the purpose of elementary teaching, and the duties of an elementary teacher were not the same as the duties of secondary teachers. The training colleges were established for the purpose of supplying elementary schools with teachers, and the money should be expended in the way in which those who supplied the money intended it to be expended. With regard to the method of examination adopted by the Board's inspector and the inspector of the local authority, that was a matter for communication between the local authority and the Board of Education. He thought the hon. Member must be referring to a provision of the Code that an inspector might examine the school if he thought it desirable upon six months' notice, and he thought that was a reasonable provision. It might be that the inspector thought some means of testing the proficiency of the school other than the ordinary means should be adopted.

MR. ERNEST GRAY said what he asked for was that the Board of Education should insist that their system should be paramount.

*SIR WILLIAM ANSON said he should be sorry to declare at once that the Board should join issue with the local authority in regard to any scheme of inspection which they proposed to carry out, but the Board had their policy. Beyond that it would not be safe for him to go while their relations with the local authority were still in embryo. The right hon. Gentleman the Member for Aberdeen had pressed him a good deal on the subject of the small provision for the representation of women on the County Council Committees. It did not follow because a scheme provided for only one or two women on the Committee that therefore the representation of women would be limited to that number. There were other members of the Committee, who might be men or women as the Council might choose. At a conference with the Lancashire Council the Board suggested that only two women on the Board was not a sufficient representation. They were told that it was impossible to find more than two women of experience who could go to the place where the Education Committee met, but that a great deal of work would be done by sub-Committees, and on those sub-Committees women would be largely represented. They had not yet come to deal with endowments, and he was informed that no difficulty had arisen up to the present in regard to trust deeds which had not been finally settled. The right hon. Gentleman asked him about an inquiry into the condition of the children. The Duke of Devonshire had stated in another place that an inquiry would take place, that probably it would be held by Royal Commission, and that before the Commission was constituted the scope of the inquiry would have to be considered, and various bodies and persons interested in the matter would have to be consulted.

Sir JOHN GORST said the Royal Commission promised by the Duke of Devonshire would not inquire especially into the condition of children, but into the physical condition of the population generally.

*Sir WILLIAM ANSON said he thought the precise topics of inquiry were not laid down; but it was quite plain that any inquiry as to the physical condition of the population must include the condition of the children. The Board of Education should be the first Department of the Government to be consulted in that matter, because they were able to give as much information on the subject as any other Department of the Government. The hon. Member for North Birmingham said he desired to see something of a really worthy kind done for secondary education. He himself would be glad to see the grant for secondary education increased. He had some difficulty in replying to the hon. Member for the Carnarvon Boroughs, because the picture he had presented of the Board of Education and their dealings with the local authorities was so unlike anything with which he was acquainted. He could hardly accept what the hon. Member said quite seriously, although no doubt it was very interesting and entertaining to the Committee.

Mr. LLOYD-GEORGE: It is a fact.

*Sir WILLIAM ANSON said if he were to find what the hon. Member had written on the subject regarded as material for the history of education, his faith in the value of historical documents would be much shaken. He hoped he had made it quite clear that there were some things the Board of Education were bound to insist upon, and would insist upon. They must require that there should be persons on the Committees of experience in education and acquainted with the needs of the schools in the areas of the education authorities. He thought that was a strict requirement of the Act. But the Board of Education had never insisted on any particular method in which these persons should be chosen. All they asked was that the authority should either enlarge their Committee by such numbers as would enable them to select the requisite persons, or diminish the number of elected persons so as to admit the requisite persons. When it was found that this extremely desirable requirement, which after all was a requirement of the Act, was insisted upon, it had been almost always at once acceded to, and the Board should fail in their duty if they gave way on that point. They had never in any measure climbed down, because they had limited their requirements to the requirements of the Act. They had been asked what course they intended to take in regard to those who refused to comply with the law. There were certain lines of action which the Board had marked out to be taken in certain conditions where the law was not complied with, and in answer to the inquiries of the hon. Member he could only say that when these conditions arose he would have to take such action as might seem to be necessary under the circumstances. Until then he would not contemplate what he hoped might never come to pass. He hoped he had dealt with the principal matters raised in the debate.

Mr. LLOYD-GEORGE invited the Parliamentary Secretary to discuss the subject of delegation to a joint Committee, and to say what was the object of having two schemes, where one would do, to carry out an object admitted to be desirable.

*Sir WILLIAM ANSON could not admit that the method suggested by the hon. Member was within the Act. He was not prepared to discuss this difficult and complicated matter across the floor of the House. He would rather talk it over with the hon. Member elsewhere. Knowing what the Welsh councils wanted he was extremely anxious that their object should be carried out within the terms of the Act, but some of the proposals which had been made were not consistent with the terms of the Act. He would very much rather not continue the discussion on this matter.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE said this was a very important question of administration. There might not be any other opportunity of bringing it before the House.

*SIR WILLIAM ANSON repeated that this was a complicated matter. There were various ways of carrying out the object of the Welsh councils, and he should be glad to see it carried out; but the ways and means of carrying it out were too complicated to be discussed without notice, and further preparation than he had had up to the present time.

*MR. EMMOTT rose to call attention to the resignation of Mr. Sadler. He moved to reduce the Vote by £100, not for the purpose of pressing the Amendment to a division, but to confine the discussion to this particular topic. He felt a certain repugnance in dealing with the case because it was more or less of a personal character. He felt bound to say at the outset that Mr. Sadler had been, if not hardly treated, at any rate unwisely treated, and that his great services had been unnecessarily dispensed with. He was convinced that if the President of the Board of Education and the hon. Baronet the Parliamentary Secretary had been a little firmer in resisting pressure from the inside of the Board the services of this brilliant, capable, and most useful public servant might have been retained for the benefit of the State. He was glad that Manchester University had engaged the services of Mr. Sadler, and that he would continue to do all that lay in his power to help the cause of education, especially secondary and technical education, the defects of which in this country were producing such lamentable results. Mr. Sadler was appointed under Mr. Acland's Minute of 27th November, 1894, which distinctly stated that the head of the New Department was to be placed under the Secretary of the Education Department. Mr. Sadler's own view of this Minute was stated in a letter which would be found in the correspondence published in the Blue-book just issued by the Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Education, and was to the effect that the words used merely indicated that he would communicate direct with the Secretary instead of his communications going through the hands of an Assistant Secretary. Before that correspondence was published Mr. Acland wrote a letter to *The Times* in which he expressed his view of the matter. In that letter Mr. Acland stated, in effect, that the terms of the Minute were not meant as any hard and fast arrangement, but a tentative scheme which might be altered according to circumstances. The hon. Member admitted that this was a difficult point. It was difficult to draw an exact line and say where the head of a Department was asking for something which was unreasonable, and where a subordinate in a Department was making a claim which no subordinate ought to make. He wished to point out that there were two views as to what the Minute really meant. The Treasury was asked for money, and Sir Francis Mowatt in sanctioning on behalf of the Lords of the Treasury the expenditure which was asked made the statement which was to be found at pages 5 and 6 of the Blue-book that the expenditure would apparently be about £3,000 a year. The expenditure never reached £3,000. He did not think the Treasury was to blame in this matter. The Treasury was a useful watch-dog on expenditure, and he wished it was sometimes more effective, particularly with regard to money wasted on Army schemes. In this case the Treasury had not stood in the way, and Mr. Sadler's resignation was not due to its action in any form. The Treasury was really a bogey in regard to this matter.

In the course of the correspondence it was stated that besides the actual costs of the Department for salaries and other matters there had been a cost of £2,300 for printing spread over seven years. He thought that was rather a mean observation to make, and furthermore it was not a fair observation. In the first place, there had been a return for part of that expenditure in books received from abroad to the value of a very large amount. A large amount of that literature, which was still unsold, could be sold. If the Department had had the good judgment to put the eleven volumes in more suitable binding and offer them through booksellers' agents he believed a very much larger sale would have taken place. The Intelligence Department was formed in 1895, and in a few years it had achieved a reputation for efficiency which, he thought, any other Government Department might reasonably envy. The work of the Department was, firstly, to deal with the correspondence and inquiries of every one and any one interested in education that came to the office; in the second place, to answer the numerous letters received from foreign sources, and that correspondence had proved much heavier than was expected; and thirdly, to issue special Returns, the value of which could not be denied. Other work that was put upon them unexpectedly was the finding of several hundreds of teachers for South Africa, a work which they performed very well. The most important of their work, however, was the issue of these Special Reports, which were appreciated very widely both at home and abroad, particularly in the colonies, though the Government did not seem to appreciate their value. The Department had proved itself a centre open to the whole Empire in regard to educational matters, and its good work had been very largely due to the genius, capacity and devotion of Mr. Sadler. Then how did the controversy arise? It had arisen on the limits of the interference of the Education Department with the discretion of Mr. Sadler as to the work he was to undertake and with regard to the expenditure of part of the money allotted. Mr. Acland's Minute stated that the head of the Intelligence Department was to be placed under the Secretary of the Board of Education. This had been interpreted into "The work is done, and must be done for the benefit of the Board, at the instance of the Board, and under the direction of the Board." What was the Board of Education? Surely it ought to be the servant of the nation to carry out the work of the nation in the best possible way. He had shown how this Department had served the nation, and the Empire. Why had this controversy arisen now? Because the Board claimed the disposal of the time of this Department for their own immediate wants and purposes, and refused to allow Mr. Sadler to go on with what he considered necessary work.

He would look at this question first of all on the merits of this particular controversy. It was proposed that this Department was to be under the Board of Education, but the Treasury Minute said:—

> "It will be the duty of this branch to keep a systematic record of educational work, and experiments both in this country and abroad."

But Mr. Sadler said that he could not keep up this systematic record of educational work and experiments in this country and abroad unless with extra help. Careful systematic scientific inquiry must go on, or else the information and advice would become of no value, and be untrustworthy. He was willing to do all that work if he got the necessary help. He was willing to leave the publication of the information obtained absolutely to the Board. Now, that was not unreasonable. A business firm which appointed an agent for special purposes would leave him general freedom to do his work and spend the money given him as he chose, and would then judge him by results. Instead of that a somewhat pedantic claim seemed to have been made to have absolute control of all the work of his Department by the Secretary to the Board of Education. There was no refusal by Mr. Sadler to do what was wanted. The new claim made was to take him off work which he considered necessary. He was willing to do both the work he considered necessary and the new work if he had the staff, but it was impossible to do both concurrently with the present staff. He maintained that, on this narrower ground, Mr. Sadler's attitude was not unreasonable, and that there was no insubordination. The narrow official view of complete control would not have been taken by broader-minded men. This work was done for the nation, not to achieve certain results for the Department, and the nation was a loser by the mistake. But he would take the matter on wider grounds.

There was a constant complaint made in the House that more and more power was passing out of the hands of the Members of the House into the hands of the Government. There were many reasons for that. First, the larger work of an increased Empire; second, new questions had arisen at home, such as the problem of education; and third, there was an immense complication of many questions owing to new discoveries in social, economic, and political science. Owing to all these reasons Parliamentary supervision was lessened, and that meant that more and more was left to the Government, and that more and more was left to the officials of the Government.

He was prepared to maintain that the Civil Service of this country was one of our glories, and he had nothing but praise for the work done by our civil servants. But it was owing to the increased work, increased complication, and the less control by the House of Commons that there was more and more need for an Intelligence Department which must be impartial, and ought to be independent. If it were a mere creature of the Government, or of some official of the Government, it would be of no use. He would have an Intelligence Department in nearly every Department—the Local Government Board, the Board of Trade, the Home Office, and the Treasury. For instance, there was the great question of fiscal reform, which was germane to the question of an Intelligence Department. The country was invited to make an inquiry into fiscal matters and discuss it, although they were not allowed to discuss it in the House of Commons. Why was an inquiry needed in these matters? It might be argued that inquiry was needed because there was no Intelligence Department connected with the Board of Trade. The Board of Trade collected figures, but it did not collate these figures in a scientific way. There was only one publication of the kind he referred to, a Report containing comparative statistics of the population, industry, and commerce of the United Kingdom and some leading foreign countries. He was only referring to that question in order to say that there were other Departments besides the Board of Education in which an Intelligence Department would be of great value. What was wanted was constant, scientific, sustained inquiry on independent lines, especially in regard to the question of education. He did not think that the truth had ever yet been told to the country about education. He believed that the one great and glaring reason why we were being beaten in the world of commerce by Germany and the United States was our neglect of secondary and technical education. It was important that the country should be told the truth in regard to these things.

The cost of an Intelligence Department was trifling, and it would be saved over and over again, either actually or in increased efficiency. He repeated that such a Department to be useful must not be the tool of an autocratic Minister or official. Even if Mr. Sadler were technically wrong—and he knew that that was the official view—he believed that the principle for which he was fighting was right, and must be acted upon if any real advantage was to be gained. As to the future of the Department, he wanted to ask two or three questions. In the first place, he wanted to ask whether the publications which were mentioned on page 55 of the Blue-book as being in progress were to be issued soon. Particularly he wanted to know when the reports on public instruction, public health, and on the industrial training of native races, the educational system of Russia, on secondary education in France, and on the educational system in Germany would be issued. Were the inquiries and special reports to go on in the Department under the new management on the same plan as heretofore? Next, was the office open to individual inquirers? His last question was, would the Department give official letters of introduction, as in the past, to properly qualified individuals interested in education who were going abroad for the purpose of studying foreign schools. He had tried to argue this question on broad grounds of public policy, and to eliminate the narrower personal element. He wanted to make it clear to the hon. Baronet the Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Education, that he cared much more for the future of the Department than for the exact rightness or wrongness of the question in controversy. For the sake of the convenience of the Committee, he begged to move the reduction of the Vote by £100.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a sum, not exceeding £5,249,706, be granted for the said Service."—(*Mr. Emmott.*)

Mr. WHITLEY (Halifax) said the Committee would agree that his hon. friend was quite entitled to bring this matter before their attention. He hoped that every Member of the Committee had read the Blue-book which contained the correspondence in this controversy, because he believed that the matter contained in that book was of the very highest importance for the future efficiency of the Civil Service. This special Intelligence Department was almost unique for its efficiency and its methods. So much had been admitted on all sides. No work turned out by any other Department in recent times could be compared with that performed in this special Department in the brilliant series of reports which had been presented by it. He need only to refer to a single one of them—viz., that wonderful report on the education in preparatory and secondary schools—a report which, to his knowledge, had had a stimulating effect in every school district where it had been digested. The step which had resulted in the resignation of Mr. Sadler seemed to make it impossible for a civil servant to look upon the great question of education from an impartial point of view. They fought the Education Bill of last year because they believed that it violated all the principles which they held dear; but at the same time there was about this educational matter something on which they were all agreed. If, as the Blue-book showed, one of the causes of the resignation of Mr. Sadler was that there was an official in an important Department who claimed the right to stand apart from the controversies of the moment and to look at education from an Imperial and broader point of view, then, he said, it was a very sad thing indeed that that step should have been taken. He would read a short extract from the Blue-book, which would show the immense importance of this matter. Mr. Sadler in conceiving what his duty was in connection with the Department wrote—

> "The Office of Special Inquiries has a scientific and investigating duty, as well as a strictly administrative one. Its most important and responsible task is to undertake the dispassionate examination of educational problems, and to lay before the country an impartial and accurate survey of the facts on both sides of great educational questions."

Could it have been that the Government claimed from this Department that they should present their Reports only on one side of the educational controversy? Then, Mr. Sadler went on to say—

> "So that there may thus be formed, in regard to national education, that sound and enlightened public opinion, on the existence of which, far more than on Departmental control, the prospects of wise educational development depend."

And further, he went on to add—

> "It would, I believe, be educationally mischievous and contrary to the public interest if the Office of Special Inquiries, instead of doing full justice to both sides in an educational controversy, were to prepare Reports with the design of influencing public opinion in favour of particular administrative aims or views, which might happen to be cherished by the Board of Education for the time being. The work for the Special Inquiry Office, though practical, should be scientific and impartial, free from administrative bias, and national, not merely Departmental, in aim."

That was a very serious matter. As the hon. Member for Oldham said, the Civil Service had hitherto always been an impartial service. Many hon. Members had read this correspondence with profound regret, and they trusted that the present administration of the Board of Education was not bent on overthrowing all those high ideals which had made the Civil Service of this country the most enlightened in the world. Whoever was appointed successor to Mr. Sadler—he knew nothing of the gentleman—it was to be hoped that he would not be appointed under conditions opposed to those so well expressed in Mr. Sadler's Memorandum.

Mr. HELME (Lancashire, Lancaster) said it was highly desirable and in the best interest of the country that the Department should carefully strive to dissipate those suspicions that had gathered round it, that it had not been so desirous of maintaining the traditions of the Civil Service in regard to the interests of public education as of endeavouring to support the policy of the Government which for the moment was in power, suspicions engendered by the fact that Sir George Kekewich, Captain Abney and Mr. Sadler had almost simultaneously left the service. It was to be hoped the Department would in future avoid similar misunderstandings. Suspicion had been increased by the attitude taken by the Board towards the schemes presented by local councils, but he was glad to know that the feeling had diminished under a more conciliatory attitude. He could not speak with freedom, but he could say that he had seen a private letter which relieved a permanent official of the Department from the suspicion that he had worked for the exclusion of Mr. Sadler. It would also be well for the Department if there were a little more promptness displayed in the administration of every-day affairs, and in dealing with correspondence. The vicar of a parish in his constituency complained that the local authority had been compelled to overdraw its account because of delay on the part of the Department.

*SIR WILLIAM ANSON said he would at once answer the question addressed to him by the hon. Member for Oldham as to the continuation of the work of the Department. There would be no change of policy whatever. The works which were in hand would be published, and Mr. Heath would carry on the work of Mr. Sadler on the same lines on which it had been conducted hitherto. Therefore the hon. Member might relieve himself of all anxiety as to the future of this branch of the Department. He had no reason to suppose that the work would not be done admirably in the future. He was quite prepared to admit that it had been done admirably in the past. He regretted very much the loss of Mr. Sadler's services, but he could not admit for one moment any of the charges which had been brought against the Board of Education in this matter. Mr. Sadler asked for money. They were prepared to press the Treasury for the money, but Mr. Sadler retired before they had the opportunity of asking for it. He asked for an increase of rooms. They had already arranged that with the Board of Works. He asked for an increase of staff, and they were prepared to obtain that for him. The hon. Member ventured to assert, and he resented the suggestion strongly, that Mr. Sadler was asked to colour in some way, or to distort, the Reports which he published in order to serve some supposed policy of the Department. No such suggestion ever was made to him, and he did not think the hon. Member for Oldham could find any foundation for such a suggestion except the words he quoted just now. They were his words—

> "It cannot be too clearly insisted upon that the work of the office of Special Inquiries and Reports has been, and must be, done for the benefit of the Board."

That was, for the benefit of the education of the country.

> "At the instance of the Board and under the direction of the Board."

There was no suggestion there that Mr. Sadler was asked to in any way colour or alter his reports to suit any requirements of the Board.

MR. EMMOTT: I do not think that I made any such suggestion.

*SIR WILLIAM ANSON thought the whole tenor of the remarks of the hon. Member—"that the country ought to hear the truth," "that the Board ought to be impartial," "that civil servants who supply special information ought not to be asked to alter that information in order to carry out the policy of the Department"—that was the gist of all or most of the charges in all the three speeches which had been made, and they were charges which he repudiated with something approaching indignation. He desired to place on record, and it was on record in the Blue-book, that—

> "The director wholly misunderstood the minute of March 31st when he assumed, in his letter of April 3rd, addressed to the President, that in setting forth the result of his inquiries he would be required to state, not what he believed to be true, but what was 'administratively convenient.' The same misunderstanding is apparent in the Minute of same date addressed to the Secretary."

There was no ground whatever for the

suggestion made by Mr. Sadler that he was to state, not what was true, but what was "administratively convenient." In the Minute in which Mr. Sadler announced that he would resign—and it must be borne in mind that Mr. Sadler announced that he would resign unless the money and the discretion and the other matters which he wanted were given to him—there were several phrases which assumed that Mr. Sadler's Department was wholly independent of the Board of Education; and he felt it necessary to make it clear to Mr. Sadler that he was a member of the Department to which he belonged, that he was on the staff of the Board of Education, and that his work must be done with some relation to the work of that Department. The hon. Member had spoken of internal pressure. He had said that Lord Londonderry and himself were not strong enough in resisting internal pressure. That was another suggestion which he most emphatically repudiated. From the moment that the Minute with Mr. Sadler's proposed resignation came into their hands—and the whole of the correspondence had passed through his hands—there had been no internal pressure whatever. He had a reason for insisting that Mr. Sadler was a member of the Department, and was not an independent person.

In the month of January Mr. Sadler sent a Memorandum, a confidential Memorandum, addressed to the Board as to the mode in which it was desirable that Councils should frame their schemes. A few days after he received this Memorandum, which he read with much interest, he was surprised to see a letter in *The Times*, signed "Sigma," embodying the substance and much of the wording of that Memorandum. He felt that this was a matter which he was bound to take notice of, and for this reason. The letter was accompanied by an article in *The Times* calling attention to it, speaking of it as the work of a person of great educational experience, and treating it as an inspired letter. At that moment the Board were commencing their relations with the various local authorities as regarded the formation of their schemes; and nothing could be more destructive of the prospects of a good understanding between the Board of Education and the local authorities than the supposition that the Department were endeavouring to influence public opinion through the Press as to the particular mode in which they desired to see the schemes framed. He felt it his duty to call the attention of Lord Londonderry to this letter. Lord Londonderry had given him an account of what had taken place. He sent for Mr. Sadler and told him he had read a letter in *The Times*, signed "Sigma," so resembling the Memorandum or letter drawn up by the Board of Education that he considered it his duty to tell him his opinion about it. Lord Londonderry said he would not ask him whether he was "Sigma," but would say that he could not allow any official in his Department to take advantage of his position in the Department to write letters to the Press either under his own or under an assumed name. Mr. Sadler immediately admitted that he was "Sigma," but thought that he was justified in promulgating the strong views he held on certain questions connected with education in the Press when he thought fit. The Department had been charged with influencing the Press by garbling Mr. Sadler's Report, a charge absolutely unfounded, but what were they to say as to an official in the Department who endeavoured to influence public opinion by anonymous correspondence in the Press at a very critical time? He was sorry he had had to bring this matter before the House, but those were the circumstances which made him feel bound to remind Mr. Sadler in the Memorandum to which the hon. Member had referred, that the work of his Department was to be done for the benefit, at the instance and under the direction of the Board. Mr. Sadler said that he must consider whether he should retain his position. Nothing more happened, and Mr. Sadler retained his position He thought that showed that Mr. Sadler was not treated with any want of consideration by the chiefs of the Department.

Shortly after there came the Memoranda referred to, and Mr. Sadler said that the work of the office of Special Inquiries should not be necessarily subordinated to the immediate administrative purposes of the Board of Education. Mr. Sadler again said that he wished to resign; but he was extremely anxious that Mr. Sadler's services should be retained, and suggested to Lord Londonderry that he might come to some terms on which Mr. Sadler might continue his work consistently with the duties of the Department. He drew up the Memorandum which appeared in the Blue-book (No. 43), and he thought the hon. Member would see that every demand of Mr. Sadler's was acceded to, except as to the office being an independent one. Only he was reminded that the director was a servant of the Department, and that if he were asked to supply information either for the benefit of the local authorities or to enable his political chiefs to answer Parliamentary inquiries, this must have the first claim on his time. He thought that considering that Mr. Sadler's Department was the Intelligence Department that was a not unreasonable demand. Mr. Sadler replied that if he were furnished with a staff he would do this, provided that in no case should—

> "The regular and systematic collection and recording of educational work and experiments at home and abroad be broken into or suspended by reason of the urgent demand for the immediate supply of particular information needed in current administration or debate."

Let them suppose that a case occurred where information was pressingly required, and they sent over to Mr. Sadler, that was to their Intelligence Department, to ask for an immediate supply of this information, and suppose Mr. Sadler said: "I am pursuing a steady course of scientific inquiry and I am sorry to say I cannot give you the information you want." Supposing an inquiry had been addressed to Lord Londonderry in the House of Lords the answer to which could only be obtained from the Intelligence Department, and Mr. Sadler was informed that the information would be wanted by the next day, would Mr. Sadler be justified in refusing to give it on these grounds?

MR. EMMOTT asked whether that had occurred.

*SIR WILLIAM ANSON said no, but if it had occurred, and it might fairly be inferred from Mr. Sadler's words that it might, either Mr. Sadler or himself would have had to leave the Department. Was it reasonable that the Director of the Intelligence Department should hold himself free to refuse information because of some scientific inquiry which was going on? What would be said at the War Office if Lord Roberts sent to the head of the Intelligence Department for information and was told that the Department was pursuing a course of strategical inquiry which could not be interrupted? What would Lord Roberts and the Secretary for War have to say to that? He told Lord Londonderry that he could not advise him to accept the terms of that last Memorandum. It was quite impossible that a member of the staff, who had already given such clear indication that he considered himself independent of the Department, could be accepted as representing their Intelligence Department when he considered himsef entitled to withhold intelligence whenever he thought that the furnishing of it interfered with a course of steady scientific educational inquiry. He thought they were right in holding this view, and he was prepared to stand by it. He assured hon. Members that the suggestion of internal pressure was wholly unfounded. Lord Londonderry and he were wholly responsible for all that had passed, and in this particular matter referred to. Mr. Sadler had the most friendly assurances that if he would stay on with them the work might go on as pleasantly as it ought to do in a Government Department.

MR. EMMOTT quite agreed that the hon. Baronet and Lord Londonderry had done all they could to keep Mr. Sadler by their personal conduct towards him, but the ways of the Education Department were extraordinary to the ordinary man. The right hon Gentleman the Member for Cambridge University had told them about something which occurred when he was at the Education Department. He said he did not do it, and was not responsible for it.

SIR JOHN GORST: No. The hon Baronet said I had passed certain plans. I asked if I had personally passed or whether they were merely passed while

I was at the Department. I never said I was not responsible. I was responsible for everything done whether I knew it or not.

MR. EMMOTT said there was the letter written by the hon. Baronet and signed Mr. Morant. Why did the Parliamentary Secretary write a letter signed by Mr. Morant?

*SIR WILLIAM ANSON said such letters to the staff were always signed by the Secretary to the Department. The object of mentioning to the House that it was his own composition was to clear away the misapprehension of internal pressure.

MR. EMMOTT said he was quite ignorant of the workings of the Department, and he apologised for the misunderstanding, although it was possible for any ordinary mind to fall into the mistake. He did not intend, as had been suggested, to accuse the Department of asking Mr. Sadler to colour the Reports that he presented to it, neither had he accused the Department of garbling Reports. Possibly he expressed himself imperfectly, but what he wished to point out was that if they interfered with a director of an Intelligence Department and took him off work on which he was engaged, and which they did not want him to go on with, and put him on to other work without enlarging his staff, they might produce an alteration in the results of his work without doing anything that could be called asking him to produce garbled or coloured reports. He still could not understand what occasioned this difficulty. He did not desire to carry the matter to a division, and would ask leave to withdraw his Amendment.

MR. WHITLEY said that the reason why the Amendment would be withdrawn was because they felt it to be of the highest importance that nothing connected with the Civil Service should ever be made a Party issue. They, therefore, would not press the Amendment.

Motion, by leave, withdrawn.

Original Question again proposed.

Sir John Gorst.

SIR JOHN GORST said he wished to say a word about the inquiry into the physical condition of the people of this country which the Duke of Devonshire had promised in another place. He quite saw that the promise of such an inquiry had entirely prevented the Board of Education from making any further inquiries at present on its own account into the condition of the children in the schools. He hoped, however, this circumstance would not prevent the Board taking such energetic steps as the hon. Baronet had promised for the improvement immediately of the condition of these children. The Board was thoroughly well informed through its inspectors of the facts which were elicited by the Royal Commission in Scotland, and which would, no doubt, be elicited by the Royal Commission when appointed in England. The Board had excellent inspectors who had, he had no doubt, given them most ample information as to the condition of the children. For instance, in London one of the inspectors was a gentleman who was a qualified medical practitioner, who took the most intense interest in the question, and who gave himself, when he was at the Board of Education, most ample information as to the unhappy condition of these children. The information which the hon. Baronet gave to the Committee that evening was no doubt derived first-hand from his own inspectors; and it would amply justify the Board of Education in taking action without waiting for the result of any further inquiry. He felt the utmost confidence that the hon. Baronet would take energetic steps in the matter; and that he would not suspend action as the result of the inquiry which had been foreshadowed in another place.

*MR. NORMAN (Wolverhampton, S.) said that many hon. Members might have thought that the picture which had been drawn by his hon. friend the Member for Carnarvon Boroughs was over-coloured. It was, however, under-coloured rather than over-coloured, although the hon. Baronet said it had no relation to the facts. In the interests of historical accuracy he proposed to give one example in connection with his own constituency. A deputation of his constituents came to the Board of Education, and they were informed by a certain distinguished official that they could not do what they desired to do. They protested that, as they understood the Act, they were at liberty to act as they desired, and they were informed that so great was the power of the Board of Education that if the Board decreed that every member of the local education authority should have red hair no member could be appointed who had not red hair. Alarmed at the prospect of such an extraordinary instruction, the deputation withdrew precisely in the spirit described by his hon. friend. Such a hectoring, bullying spirit, as his hon. friend had described it, was not in the interests of education, and it would be better for all parties if it were abandoned.

MR. WEIR (Ross and Cromarty) said he should like to have information from the hon. Baronet with reference to the question of children's teeth. During the war a large number of young men had to be refused because of the condition of their teeth. He brought the matter before the Education Department, and the reply he received was that the Department was considering the matter. He would suggest that dentists should be told off to examine the teeth of the children in the schools. He now wished to know if the Board of Education had taken any steps in the matter. A large number of would-be recruits were now rejected for the Army and Navy in consequence of the state of their teeth; and they would probably have been eligible if their teeth had been attended to in their youth. It was a national question, and in order to secure a reply he would move the reduction of the Vote by £200.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a sum, not exceeding £5,249,606, be granted for the said service."—(*Mr. Weir.*)

*SIR WILLIAM ANSON said the hon. Member had asked him a question on the subject not long ago, and he then told the hon. Gentleman that the Board of Education was in communication with the local authorities as to the most convenient manner of dealing with the matter. He could assure the hon. Gentleman that the matter would not be overlooked, though he could not promise that any specific method would be adopted for making the inquiries which the hon. Gentleman wanted.

MR. WEIR said he protested against this dilly-dallying with the question. They were told that nothing had been done, but that the matter would be considered. That was the invariable reply given in the House; but something ought to be done by this time. He felt bound to protest.

Question put.

The Committee proceeded to a division, and the Chairman stated that he thought the Noes had it; and, on his decision being challenged, it appeared to him that the division was frivolously claimed, and he accordingly directed the Ayes to stand up in their places, and three Members having stood up, the Chairman declared that the Noes had it.

Original Question put, and agreed to.

CLASS II.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a sum, not exceeding £9,985, be granted to His Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1904, for the salaries and expenses of the office of His Majesty's Secretary for Scotland and subordinate office, expenses under The Inebriate Acts, 1879 to 1900, and expenses under The Private Legislation Procedure (Scotland) Act, 1899, including a Grant in aid of the Congested Districts (Scotland) Fund."

*Mr. DEWAR (Inverness-shire) said he wished to protest against the Scotch Estimates being taken at ten minutes to twelve. On the whole Scotland was a well-governed country, but they had some grievances, and the grievance he wished to ventilate was the most pressing of them all—that of the condition of the Highland crofters and cottars. He wished to mention two points. Last year they asked the Lord Advocate to give the Committee an account of certain lands bought by the Congested Districts Board. The Lord Advocate had been good enough to give it; and it would be found in an Appendix to the Report. He wished to direct the attention of the Committee to the fact that the Board, although it had been in existence for five years, had only up to the present spent two-and-a-half years' income. The Board had purchased land in Barra for a sum of £7,900, and they charged the crofters for that land £5,500, which might be taken as a fair price. That meant that the Board gave a bonus of 43 per cent., or, if the loss on the sheep stock, which was, after all, a landlord's obligation, was taken into account, a bonus of 51.6 per cent. more than the value of the land. He was in favour of proprietors in Scotland getting full and generous value for their land. He was in favour of Scotch landlords being no worse treated than Irish landlords, but the figures he had quoted showed how hopeless it was to expect the Congested Districts Board for Scotland to do any good in settling the people on the land by the methods which they adopted. He was strongly of opinion that the bonus which had been paid for the land went to the agricultural tenants; and, if that were so, it showed gross mismanagement. The agitation for land for this particular purpose had been going on for years; and although the Congested Districts Board knew of the agitation they allowed the leases of this land to be renewed. The other point to which he wished to draw attention was the difference between the management of the Congested Districts Board of Scotland and the Congested Districts Board of Ireland. He had lately visited the scene of the operations of the Irish Board, and the comparison with the work of the Scottish Board was to a Scotchman most humiliating. In the Report of the Scottish Board he could find not a single reference to fish or fishing. The sea bordering his constituency swarmed with fish, yet the Scottish Board did nothing to improve the fishing industry, whereas the Irish Board had developed the industry until it had yielded something like £26,700, of which £17,000 went to the fishermen, £6,000 went to repay the cost of the boats, and £2,000 was spent in teaching the fishermen how to catch the fish and develop the industry. The Irish Board employed a Scotchman who taught the Irish fishermen how to fish, and that Board also chartered a steamer to take fish caught off the North Coast of Ireland to Glasgow. On the other hand, the Scottish Board did nothing whatever to develop the industry in Scotland.

And, it being Midnight, the Chairman left the Chair to make his Report to the House.

Resolution to be reported upon Monday next; Committee also to report Progress; to sit again upon Monday next.

Adjourned at three minutes after Twelve o'clock.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Friday, 10*th July*, 1903.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

The Lord Chancellor acquainted the House that the Clerk of the Parliaments had laid upon the Table the Certificate from the Examiners that the Standing Orders applicable to the following Bill have been complied with:—Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (No. 5).

Also the Certificate that no Standing Orders are applicable to the following Bill:—Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (No. 7).

And also the Certificates that the further Standing Orders applicable to the following Bills have been complied with:—Strabane and Letterkenny Railway; Baker Street and Waterloo Railway (Extension of Time); Kingston-upon-Hull Corporation; Sheffield Corporation.

The same were ordered to lie on the Table.

Ulster and Connaught Light Railways Bill. Examiner's Certificate of non-compliance with the Standing Orders referred to the Standing Orders Committee on Tuesday next.

Scottish Central Electric Power Bill [H.L.]. The Chairman of Committees informed the House that the opposition to the Bill was withdrawn. The order made on 23rd June last discharged, and Bill committed for Tuesday next.

London County Council (Tramways and Improvements) Bill; Metropolitan Police Provisional Order Bill; London United Tramways Bill; Harrow Road and Paddington Tramways Bill. Report from the Committee of Selection, That the Earl of Craven and the Lord Belhaven and Stenton be proposed to the House as members of the Select Committee on the said Bills in the place of the Earl Waldegrave and the Lord Kilmaine. Read, and agreed to.

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 5) Bill. Report from the Committee of Selection, That the Lord Denman be proposed to the House as a member of the Select Committee on the said Bill in the place of the Earl of Mayo; read, and agreed to.

Brighton Corporation Bill [H.L.]. Moved, That Standing Orders Nos. 143 and 143A be dispensed with, and that the Bill be now read 3^a; agreed to; Bill read 3^a accordingly, and passed, and sent to the Commons.

South Staffordshire Tramways Bill [H.L.]. Read 3^a, and passed, and sent to the Commons.

Wolverhampton and Cannock Chase Railway (Extension of Time) Bill. Read 3^a, and passed.

Hyde Corporation Bill; Leigh Corporation Bill; Broadstairs Gas Bill. Read 3^a, with the Amendments, and passed, and returned to the Commons.

London and North-Western Railway Bill [H.L.]. Returned from the Commons agreed to.

Hexham Gas Bill [H.L.]. Returned from the Commons agreed to, with Amendments.

Nantwich Urban District Council Bill [H.L.]; Sheffield and South Yorkshire Navigation Bill [H.L.]; Torquay Corporation Water Bill [H.L.]. Returned from the Commons agreed to, with Amendments. The said Amendments considered, and agreed to.

Nelson Corporation Bill; West Cumberland Electric Tramways Bill; Fishguard and Rosslare Railways and Harbours Bill. Returned from the Commons with the Amendments agreed to.

Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 5) Bill. Moved, That the order made on the 16th March last, "That no Provisional Order Confirmation Bill brought from the House of Commons shall be read a second time after Thursday the 18th day of June next," be dispensed with, and that the Bill be now read 2^a; agreed to; Bill read 2^a accordingly, and committed to a Committee of the whole House on Tuesday next.

An Asterisk (*) at the commencement of a Speech indicates revision by the Member.

Local Government Provisional Order (No. 16) Bill. Read 3ª (according to Order) with Amendments, and passed, and returned to the Commons.

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 17) Bill; Local Government Provisional Order (No. 18) Bill. Read 3ª (according to Order), and passed.

Pier and Harbour Provisional Orders (No. 2) Bill; Pier and Harbour Provisional Orders (No. 3) Bill; Pier and Harbour Provisional Orders (No. 4) Bill. House in Committee (according to Order): Amendments made: Standing Committee negatived. The Report of Amendments to be received on Monday next.

Pier and Harbour Provisional Orders (No. 5) Bill. Committee of the whole House (which stands appointed for this day) put off to Tuesday next.

Pier and Harbour Provisional Orders (No. 6) Bill. House in Committee (according to Order): Bill reported without Amendment: Standing Committee negatived; and Bill to be read 3ª on Monday next.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

TRADE REPORTS (ANNUAL SERIES).

No. 3025. Turkey (Baghdad).

No. 3026. Turkey (Beirut and the Coast of Syria).

COMMERCIAL No 5 (1903).

Correspondence with the Governments of Belgium and Germany as to their commercial relations with Great Britain and British Colonies.

IRISH LAND COMMISSION.

Report of the Commissioners, for the period from 1st April, 1902, to 31st March, 1903.

Presented (by Command), and ordered to lie on the Table.

PUBLIC RECORDS (DEPARTMENT OF THE COMPTROLLER AND AUDITOR-GENERAL).

Second Schedule containing a list and particulars of classes of documents which have been removed from the office of the Comptroller and Auditor-General, and deposited in the Public Record Office, but which are not considered of sufficient public value to justify their preservation therein.

INTERMEDIATE EDUCATION (IRELAND).

Rules made by the Intermediate Education Board for Ireland for the examination in music.

INDIA (PROGRESS AND CONDITION).

Statement exhibiting the moral and material progress and condition of India during the year 1901–1902, and the nine preceding years, thirty-eighth number (being the fourth decennial Report).

Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table.

BOROUGH FUNDS BILL.

Read 3ª (according to Order), with the Amendment, and passed, and returned to the Commons.

PISTOLS BILL.

House in Committee (according to Order). Bill reported without Amendment; and re-committed to the Standing Committee.

PREFERENTIAL TARIFFS—THE POSITION OF INDIA.

*THE EARL OF NORTHBROOK, who had given notice "To call attention to the position of India with regard to the proposal before the country for the arrangement of preferential tariffs between the United Kingdom and the rest of the British Empire, and to ask His Majesty's Government whether our commercial relations with India form part of the inquiry upon which they are engaged, and if any correspondence has passed with the Government of India on the subject," said: My Lords, His Majesty's Government have expressed their desire that Mr. Chamberlain's plan for preferential tariffs for the Empire shall be fully discussed. I therefore beg to be allowed to put forward some considerations in respect to its application to India. No one can recognise more fully than I do the value of Mr. Chamberlain's services as Secretary of State for the colonies, or the weight which attaches to his opinions upon colonial questions. I must, however, beg to observe that his attention seems to have been directed exclusively to the colonies, and that in his speeches announcing and defending his proposals he has made no reference whatever to the foreign possessions of the Crown, of which India is incomparably the most important.

I have no desire in the slightest degree to depreciate the importance of our trade with the colonies, but I am bound to point out to your Lordships that our trade with India is at least as important. The whole trade of India has reached the value of £173,000,000 sterling. In 1901, the value of the exports from the United Kingdom to India was £35,000,000—a sum equal to the value of our exports to Australia, New Zealand, and Canada together. The question of the trade of this country with the colonies was referred to in a passage in a speech made by Mr. Chamberlain at the Constitutional Club, which was quoted to your Lordships the other night by the noble Duke the Leader of the House, and it may be interesting to know what the figures really are. The last statistical abstract of the trade of the United Kingdom shows that the declared value of the exports of British and Irish produce in 1901 was £280,000,000 sterling. Of this, £175,250,000 were taken by foreign countries, and £104,750,000 by British possessions. Of the latter, about half was taken by the self-governing colonies. In round numbers, the figures were—Australia and New Zealand, £27,000,000; the Cape and Natal, £17,250,000; and the North American Colonies, £8,000,000; giving a total of £52,250,000. The remainder—£52,500,000—was taken by other British possessions, and of this India took £35,000,000. India, therefore, took one-third of the whole trade with British possessions.

It cannot be denied then that India holds an important position in the commerce of the Empire, and that her interests should not be overlooked, as hitherto they appear to have been, when such great changes as those proposed by Mr. Chamberlain are put before the country. A circumstance connected with the position of India must not be lost sight of. The Customs tariff of India has for the last five and twenty years been framed upon the same principles as that of the United Kingdom—namely, upon what are commonly called free trade principles. Slight duties upon imports have been imposed, but for revenue purposes only, and not to protect Indian manufacturers. An *ad valorem* duty of 5 per cent. is levied upon what are called general imports; 3½ per cent. upon cotton manufactures, with an equivalent Excise upon the produce of Indian cotton mills; commodities which are useful for the development of the resources of India are admitted at a duty of 1 per cent., or free; while, as with us, special rates are put upon spirits and other liquors, with a corresponding Excise upon Indian products of a similar kind. It has for a long series of years been held by Indian financiers, and notably by Sir John Strachey and Lord Cromer, that the condition of the people of India and her financial interests call for the freest practicable interchange of her products with the rest of the world. The Government of India, in 1882, when Lord Cromer was financial member of the Council of the Governor-General, under my noble friend Lord Ripon, took off all Customs duties upon the general imports, and they were only reimposed owing to the financial difficulties which occurred in 1894.

The trade of India has flourished under this system of free trade. The value of her sea-borne commerce with the world, which received a considerable impetus from the tariff of 1875, by which the import duties were reduced from 7½ to 5 per cent. and most of the export duties were taken off, has increased from £104,000,000 to £164,000,000 since that time. Her manufactures have very largely increased. There are important manufactures of the coarser qualities of cotton yarn and piece goods. Jute manufactures have sprung into existence, and now form an important part of Indian exports. In 1876 only four millions of yards of jute cloth were exported from India; in 1901 the quantity had risen to 365,000,000 yards. In 1876 24,500,000 pounds of tea were exported; in 1901 the exports were 192,000,000 pounds. Sir E. Law, the Financial Member of Lord Curzon's Government, said in his Budget statement of last March that he anticipates a further development of

Indian industries. This progress of Indian manufactures is not due to protection. The 5 per cent. duty upon imports, although it may have some slight protective effect, cannot be sufficient seriously to interfere with competition from outside. The progress of Indian manufactures is due to the natural advantages possessed by India, and is the more satisfactory because it rests upon a sound basis.

While the trade and manufactures of India have flourished under free trade there is no ground for complaint as to the effect of the Indian tariff upon the trade of the United Kingdom with India. We hold a commanding position in respect of the imports of India from Europe and the United States of America. The trade of India with Asia and Africa may be put out of consideration in this connection, for it consists of commodities which we do not produce. Taking the most important of our imports into India—namely, cotton yarn and manufactures — their value in 1902 was £20,500,000 while the value of the same commodities imported into India from the rest of Europe and the United States together was considerably under £1,000,000. The price of cotton manufactures has fallen considerably of late years, but a comparison of the quantities of the piece goods which are measured shows that the quantity imported into India from the United Kingdom has nearly doubled since 1876. In that year 1,166,000,000 yards were imported, and in 1902 2,154,000,000 yards. The quantity imported from all other countries in 1876 was 20,250,000 yards, and in 1902, 35,750,000 yards; so that there has been an increase of about 1,000,000,000 of yards in the imports of our cotton manufactures, and of only 15,500,000 of yards in those of all other countries. Lancashire has more than held its own in supplying India with the finer qualities of cotton goods, while India has increased her output in the coarser qualities which are manufactured from the short staple cotton grown in India.

The condition of the trade of India having been so healthy under free trade, I ask, why should there be a change? But as Mr. Chamberlain advocates a system of preferential tariffs for the Empire, I will try to show what its effects would be upon India. I have already pointed out that India treats our cotton manufactures on a system of perfect equality with her own, and that the 5 per cent. duty imposed by the Indian general tariff can hardly have any protective effect. There is no need, therefore, for any bargain with India in order to improve the position of our manufactures in their competition with the manufactures of India. The position of India in this respect is altogether different from that of the colonies, which impose Customs duties upon our manufactures in order to protect their own from our competition. The only way of which I can think by which a preferential tariff in our favour could be arranged in India would be by permitting the produce and manufactures of the United Kingdom to be imported free while similar commodities imported from elsewhere should be charged with much higher duties than the 5 per cent. now charged In return for such preferential treatment given to us I presume that India would receive some such advantage in regard to her exports to the United Kingdom as Mr. Chamberlain proposes for the colonies. In other words, if India gives protection to our manufactures we should give some protection to her trade with us.

This I conceive to be the system advocated by Mr. Chamberlain for the Empire. Let us see what the United Kingdom and India would gain or lose by such a transaction. The value of the imports of private merchandise by sea from the United Kingdom into India in 1901 was £32,500,000, while the value of the imports from the rest of Europe and the United States was £10,000,000, so that at first sight it would appear that under a preferential tariff we might get a considerable share of this trade. But it consists to a great extent of articles such as mineral oils, sugar, and wine, which we do not produce, and an examination of the figures shows that the margin upon which we might expect to gain something must be reduced to about £5,000,000. In fact, we already have the lion's share of the imports into India of such commodities as we can supply. In return for this slight advantage, we

The Earl of Northbrook.

should have to favour Indian producers at the expense of the consumers in the United Kingdom. Indian tea requires no protection—the tea of India and Ceylon has nearly driven Chinese tea out of our market. India has a virtual monopoly in rice. The Indian exports which might benefit by protection are wheat, sugar, and tobacco. The trade of India with us in wheat is liable to great fluctuations; it depends upon the harvests in India, upon the price of wheat in the markets of the world, and upon the demand for wheat in India. For instance, in 1900, which was a famine year, no wheat was exported from India. I very much doubt whether any such duty as is likely to be imposed upon wheat here would be of advantage to the producers of wheat in India.

A considerable stimulus, however, might be given to the production of sugar and tobacco in India if differential duties in favour of India were put upon imports of sugar and tobacco from other countries, but I hardly think any Chancellor of the Exchequer is likely to be found who would entertain such an idea. I will not stop to examine whether a preferential duty created on sugar in favour of India would be consistent with the Sugar Convention into which His Majesty's Government have entered. Moreover, the whole fiscal system of both countries would be upset by the introduction of protection. I will not dwell on the effect upon the trade of the United Kingdom, but to India the result would be very serious. Her financial condition greatly depends upon finding a market for her exports; a preferential tariff in favour of the United Kingdom could not fail to involve India in a war of tariffs. She does most of her export trade with other countries than the United Kingdom, for we only take about one-fourth of her exports, and any serious diminution of her exports would be severely felt by the people and derange the finances of India. I might dwell further upon this point, but I think I have said enough to show that the introduction of a preferential tariff into India would be highly injurious both to India and to the United Kingdom.

So far, I have dealt with this matter from the economic standpoint alone, but political considerations, I need not remind your Lordships, must not be left out of sight. I ask your Lordships to consider the effect which would be produced upon public opinion in India if our fiscal policy should be changed for the avowed object of promoting what are supposed to be the interests of the United Kingdom. The feelings of natives of India have always been strongly pronounced in favour of the protection of native manufactures. Protection is already being discussed in the Indian Press in consequence of Mr. Chamberlain's speeches. English Finance Ministers and English Viceroys have met this feeling by declaring that the fiscal system of India has not been constructed with the object of giving any special advantages to the United Kingdom, but because we believe a tariff based upon free trade principles to be for the true interests of both countries. In my judgment we have been honest in our profession, and we can appeal to results in support of our arguments. But if the free trade tariff is to be changed into a system of preferential duties, we must expect that an agitation will be raised in favour of protecting Indian manufactures. Indian Statesmen—and there are many of them fully capable of appreciating the position—will say—"Why do you treat India differently from your colonies? You are ready to accept from them fiscal arrangements which, while giving you some advantage over the foreigner, will still leave substantial duties upon your manufactures for the protection of the manufactures of the colonies. Can you refuse the same treatment to India? We give you the preferential tariff for which you ask—allow us to protect our own manufactures." I do not know what answer could be given to that argument. I should not like to rely on my own opinion in this matter, but I will quote the opinion of the noble Marquess opposite. In 1894, when the noble Marquess had just come home from his successful Viceroyalty in India, and when a similar question was being discussed, he said—

> "Many causes are at work which should make us pause before we do anything to shake the confidence of the people of India in the absolute disinterestedness of our rule. The Press takes advantage of the wide measure of liberty which it enjoys to speak its mind with a

> licence that would not be tolerated by the rulers of any other Eastern country. The Government must make up its mind to be misrepresented, and may in ordinary cases console itself by the hope that the truth will prevail, but it should think twice before it supplies the party of agitation with a real grievance and with the materials for an indictment to which no reply is possible."

The noble Marquess was supported on that occasion by Lord Roberts, who said—

> "While as a soldier I believe that the prosperity of India depends on the maintenance of our naval and military supremacy, as an Englishman who has lived for more than forty years in that country I know that the position we occupy in India is mainly due to the firm reliance of the natives on our integrity and honesty of purpose, and our determination to do what is right and best for them. If this feeling is once destroyed the consequences would be disastrous."

These observations dispose of the selfish doctrine which has been advanced—namely, that England can do whatever it likes with India, and whether it is right or just does not signify. I remember but too well the baneful effects which followed from the acute controversy between the Lancashire manufacturers and the Government of India, which was so courageously and satisfactorily settled by Sir Henry Fowler, not to deprecate in the strongest terms I can use the introduction of a preferential tariff into India, which would seem to me to be almost certain to produce similar agitation in future.

Mr. Chamberlain has declared that—

> "A system of preferential tariffs is the only system by which this Empire can be kept together."

I have tried to show that this doctrine cannot be accepted so far as one of the most important parts of the Empire is concerned, and that to introduce such a system into India would be economically inexpedient and politically dangerous. Perhaps some of your Lordships may think that I have built up a fine castle in the air in order to have the satisfaction of knocking it down, and that my arguments may be sound enough but that the preferential system for India which I have been discussing will never be proposed. My Lords this is not my fault. Mr. Chamberlain's plan for the colonies is that they shall give us preferential tariffs in return for taxes upon the food of the people of the United Kingdom. He has been silent as to his plan for India. What can I do but assume that his intention is to proceed on the same lines? If I am wrong, I hope that one of the right hon. Gontleman's colleagues will explain to-night what his plan for India really is. No light was thrown upon it by a short answer given by the Prime Minister in the House of Commons. He implied, however, that our fiscal arrangements with India formed part of the inquiry in which His Majesty's Government are engaged, and I must assume that this is the case. Has this subject been considered, and has His Majesty's Government come to any determination upon it? I beg to ask, in conclusion, what the plan for India is, whether the Secretary of State for India in Council, to whom Parliament has entrusted the financial interests of India, has expressed any opinion upon it, and, if not, whether he will be invited to do so; also whether the Government of India has been consulted. I trust, at any rate, that the plan, whatever it is, and the views of those in authority upon it, will be placed before Parliament and the country before the mandate for which Mr. Chamberlain is about to ask in favour of preferential tariffs for the Empire becomes the subject of discussion in the autumn.

*LORD AVEBURY: My Lords, the noble Earl who has just sat down, who speaks with so much authority on everything which concerns India, has pointed out the grave difficulties of preferential trade in the case of that country—difficulties, however, perhaps, rather than impossibilities. But while, on the one hand, India has little to gain from preferential trade, the same may be said with reference to this country. Our imports into India amount to no less than £32,500,000, against £10,000,000 from foreign countries as mentioned by the noble Earl. Of these one-fifth, or £2,000,000, come from Austria-Hungary; £1,000,000 of the amount consists of sugar, which we do not produce here. The next largest importer into India is Russia, with £1,900,000, and out of that sum £1,870,000 consists of mineral oils, which we do not produce. The imports from Russia into India, therefore, with the exception of mineral oils, are practically *nil.* Germany's imports into India are £1,700,000; but over £300,000 consists of sugar, and a large portion of the rest is made up of other substances and products which we do not produce. The imports of the United States into India are £830,000, and there, again, £300,000 consists of mineral oils, so that the whole importation from the United States, except mineral oils, is only about £500,000. The imports from Spain amount to £290,000, and £280,000 consists of raw cotton and jute, so that the other imports are absolutely nothing.

It seems to be clear, then, from the figures that while on the one hand India has little to gain from preferential trade, we also in this country have little to gain from it here. Nevertheless this question must be faced and decided; it cannot be disposed of by a few general observations. The discussions at successive colonial Conferences cannot be ignored, and the noble Marquess the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs showed very clearly the other night that the novel systems of bounties, cartels, and syndicates have raised problems which did not exist in the time of Cobden and Bright. Sir E. Grey admits that—

> "He could imagine a case in which some foreign country might mete out to us treatment that was so obviously hostile and unfair that it would be impossible for us to sit still under it."

But cases have arisen which give good ground of complaint, and would amply justify retaliation, though I should not advocate it, hoping that our grievances may be redressed without our taking any such extreme step. Sir R. Giffen has referred to this in a recent article as regards our shipping. We should certainly exhaust all the resources of negotiation before proceeding to reprisals, but in the last resort we may be driven to do so, and in doing so need not, I think, depart from free trade principles. The favoured-nation clause is the sheet anchor of our commerce, but in some cases it is kept only in letter and broken in reality.

So far as trade arrangements are concerned, foreign countries may be divided into two categories. Some, Turkey for instance, treat us fairly. They impose certain specified rates of charge on all countries and all goods. Other countries, however, while ostensibly giving us the favoured-nation clause, and in fact imposing equal duties on all nations, place high, and sometimes prohibitive, rates on just those articles which we produce. Directly our manufacturers establish a trade in any article the duties on it are raised against them. Suppose we acted in the same way. Suppose, for example, we raised the duty on claret or hock—theoretically it would apply to the whole world, practically it would affect France or Germany alone. From this point of view we have, I submit, a weapon in our own hands which in the last resort we might use without affecting free trade. If we have nothing to give, we have much that we might take away. The Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs has, in fact, in his hands the big pistol for which he has asked; but the noble Marquess, I am sure, will agree that pistols should only be used in the last resort. But what are the views of the colonies? We have given them long ago a free market for all their produce. We do not ask them to exclude foreign manufacturers. What we wish is that they should treat us as we treat them. Do their wisest statesmen ask us to do more than we have done? Sir Wilfrid Laurier has said that Canada gave us a preference because—

> "We looked carefully round the world, and we found England to be the only country which receives our products freely. We desired to show England our gratitude."

In his Liverpool speech Sir Wilfrid Laurier also said—

> "It is no intention of ours to disturb in any way the system of free trade which has done so much for England."

And in Canada he said that preferential treatment might be an advantage—

> "But we cannot have it so long as we have a protective tariff in Canada. . . . But the moment we are ready—it may take a long time, but I hope that some day it will come—to discard our tariff, the moment we come to the doctrine of free trade, then it is possible to have a commercial mutual preference based on free trade in the Empire."

Mr. Seddon also, though he is reported as having since expressed a somewhat different opinion, speaking at the New Zealand dinner, assured us that the New Zealand Government, in proposing to grant preference to the mother country did so—

> "In the spirit and desire to help—to give, and not a desire to take. They felt it was an opportunity to assist the mother country; it was love, and not sordid motives, that prompted the sending of the resolution."

That there are grounds for inquiry cannot, I think, be denied. On the other hand the subjects which have been mentioned as the subjects of the inquiry do not include one of the most important. What are the colonies going to do? Hitherto their object has been to exclude our manufactures. How can we decide whether any alteration in our fiscal policy is desirable until we know what line the colonies are going to take? It is no answer to say that they are willing to impose 33 per cent. more on foreign goods. If they exclude our goods what does it matter to us if in the case of foreigners the duties are higher still? Our real competition in the colonies is not with foreign manufacturers but with colonial manufacturers. How can the country be expected to give the Government a mandate on such an important subject in the present state of matters? The Government require no mandate to enable them to negotiate; and that, in fact, they have done already. It is, of course, very interesting to know the views of our leading statesmen, but it is still more important to ascertain the views of the colonies. Are they prepared to abandon protection and adopt free trade within the Empire? If they are, it may be worth our while to alter our policy. But if they are not, how can they expect us to depart from our present position? It would be most unwise and ungracious to throw cold water on any real proposals for closer trade connection with the colonies. An appeal to the country on such an issue would be most unfortunate. On the other hand, how can the country be asked to abandon the policy of fifty years without knowing what is to be adopted in its stead? And yet, if we decide to maintain the existing system, we shall seem to flaunt, and shall certainly be told that we are flaunting, the colonies. We should be wantonly entering on a course which is almost sure to rouse bad blood between the mother country and the colonies. Surely the Government are amply justified in negotiating. They have—as I have said—done so already. The colonies propose to give the mother country a preference. We welcome their intention. It is impossible, it would be most ungracious and unwise, to meet them by a simple *non possumus*. We must face the question. The Unionist Party feel, and are justified in feeling, great confidence in the Prime Minister, in the Duke of Devonshire, in Mr. Chamberlain, and the other ministers. If they could negotiate an arrangement with the colonies which, in their judgment, was fair and wise, I believe it would be one which the country might and would accept; but to go to the country on a mere question of preferential trade in the abstract would surely be unfair to the country, might break up the Unionist Party, which would be a grave misfortune, and, what would be still more deplorable, would perhaps even break up the Empire itself.

*THE EARL OF ELGIN: My Lords, my noble friend who has introduced this question speaks with so much authority on behalf of all those who have held the high office of Viceroy of India that I should have thought it almost unnecessary for me to interpose, but he desired particularly that I, as having had more recent experience than his own, should say a word or two in regard to the subject which he has brought before the House. On the general view of the matter I shall not detain the House at any great length, because I entirely agree with the opinions which have been put before your Lordships by the noble Earl. But I have, perhaps, this justification for saying a word or two, that during my time in India there was a good deal of discussion on the imposition of the Customs duties which were proposed in 1894. I must confess that it made a great impression upon my mind, that upon my arrival in India, with a rooted conviction for free trade, the first great duty which I was called upon to perform should be the introduction of a measure for the imposition of duties. But I am sure that the noble Marquess opposite, as my predecessor in the office of Viceroy of India, will bear me out in the statement that the necessity for those duties, for revenue purposes only, had become urgent before my arrival in India, and their urgency was imperative.

I refer to them on this occasion because I think that what happened illustrates to some extent the difficulties which have been foreshadowed by the noble Earl as likely to occur in the future. It took three years to settle the arrangements in connection with the introduction of those duties into India, though, as the noble Earl has pointed out, they were very moderate duties—at the highest point 5 per cent. *ad valorem*; and, as I have said, they were introduced for purely revenue purposes. Manufacturers on both sides objected to the imposition of a duty which did not also affect their rivals, and the solution which was eventually arrived at was that which was proposed by Sir Henry Fowler, who was then Secretary of State for India, which brought in an Excise duty on cotton goods—a measure which excited a very considerable amount of opposition in India, and which really left matters balanced as they were before. Throughout the whole of this period there was a great deal of friction. There was a great deal of friction when the first proposal was made for the introduction of the duties; there was a great deal of friction because the cotton duty at that time was omitted; there was a great deal of friction when it was proposed to tax cotton; and there was still further friction when, in order to meet the claims of Lancashire, an Excise duty was imposed on Indian manufactures.

The noble Earl has said that we could, of course, use the argument, though he thought it was a dangerous one, that it was the will of the British Government, and that that will must be obeyed. I had some difficulty in regard to the legislation that was necessary in India. It did not seem possible at one time to progress in the manner that was desired, and I thought it my duty to remind my Council of the nature of their powers in regard to legislation. At that time, rather unfortunately for myself, I made use of an expression which is very commonly used just now, and which has occurred this evening, in regard to the "mandate" which a Minister wishes to obtain for a policy that he professes. It is an expression very commonly used, I think, with reference to a seat in the House of Commons, and it was in regard to that illustration that I used it in my speech on that occasion. But it was immediately seized upon and converted into an expression of the mandate of the Secretary of State, and throughout my term of office I was always met on every convenient opportunity by an assertion that I was in favour of Government by mandate. I do not mention this matter because I have any personal feeling in regard to it, but I think it is a good illustration of the rapidity with which ideas of that kind are taken up in India, and taken up in a very insidious and dangerous form, because they very often excite a considerable amount of sympathy among the European population in India itself.

At that time, of course, we had to deal solely with the relations between home and Indian merchants, but I venture to think that any difficulties of that sort would now be increased tenfold, and that it would be necessary to safeguard Indian interests with regard not only to the mother country but to each colony. I would like to give an illustration in support of that contention. Take the case of the great and growing industry in coal. If the coal of the United Kingdom is to have a preference in the colonial markets, what is to happen to Indian coal? It appears to me that it would be intolerable that Indian coal should be put at any disadvantage in markets, such as, say, Singapore, or even its next door neighbour, Ceylon. Yet if that is to be avoided it will be necessary to have a whole system of relations, not only between the United Kingdom and the colonies, but between India and the colonies also. As the taxation of food has been often spoken of in connection with this question, I should like to say one word with regard to Indian wheat. The noble Earl stated that in his opinion Indian wheat would probably not be so much affected, and he dwelt particularly, I think, on the case of famines, when the supply of wheat is naturally wanted on the spot. I sincerely trust that Indian famines will not be so often recurrent in the future as they have been of late years; but, apart from that, I rather think we must take wheat into account as an Indian export. It is well known to those who are acquainted with India that the native of India does not live habitually upon wheat, but upon millet and other kinds of grain, which are not exported in the same way. Since the noble Earl's connection with India, there has been a great extension of irrigation, and I think I may say that the irrigated lands are, in many cases, wheat lands, and must be regarded as wheat-exporting areas. I think, therefore, that the interests of India, with regard to wheat, will require consideration.

As those connected with India know, India depends largely on its land revenue. But this land revenue is governed by a system of land settlements—this always struck me as an admirable part of our system, but it is probably not familiar to many Members of this House—and anything that disturbs the current rate of prices very materially affects the land settlements which have been made. I am not going to elaborate this point, because the Government of India in 1897, when we had to deal with proposals which were then put forward for bimetallism, went very thoroughly into this question, and showed the great dangers which were involved to India in regard to it. I would only say here that on that occasion I had warnings from most experienced officers of the Government of India, showing how much the Government might be affected by any disturbance of prices, not so much from the point of view of loss of revenue as of loss of confidence of the people in the settlements that had been made. There are two ways, of course, in which the question may be dealt with. India may be included in the scheme of the Government, or it may not be included. If it is included, the noble Earl who brought forward this subject has shown how many difficulties will present themselves; and I am not sure that I do not go a little further than he does in regard to any question of excluding India from any plan. I cannot help thinking that to exclude India might, in certain circumstances, give rise to many of the political dangers to which he alluded. If it should be possible—I only put it hypothetically—to bring forward a great scheme which would confer benefit on the United Kingdom and its dependencies and India should be excluded from that scheme, I cannot help thinking that questions of difficulty would arise which it would be very disastrous to this country to excite. I should, therefore, be inclined to put it that no system will be satisfactory which does not preserve for India the advantages which she has gained under her present free trade system.

*THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (The Marquess of LANSDOWNE): My Lords, like the two noble Earls who have addressed your Lordships this evening, I have had the great privilege of being connected for a time with the administration of Indian affairs, and I realise as deeply as they do the immense importance of dealing with this subject in the most cautious spirit. I think I am justified in assuming that the noble Earl who spoke first introduced it to your Lordships mainly with the idea of eliciting from His Majesty's Government a statement of the procedure which they proposed to follow in so far as the inquiry to which we are committed will deal with India. I can hardly believe that he seriously expected that so soon after our announcement that an inquiry was to take place we should come down to this House and inform your Lordships of the results which that inquiry is likely to have; nor, I think, can the noble Earl have seriously believed that we should leave India altogether out of account. I understand the noble Earl to have been perturbed by the fact that the Colonial Secretary, in certain speeches which he has lately delivered, made no reference to the case of India. I suggest to the noble Earl an explanation of that fact. It is not a very profound one; but it seems to me obvious. It is that Mr. Chamberlain holds the office of Secretary of State for the Colonies, and not that of Secretary of State for India; and that, as this question has been brought to his attention in his official capacity, and more particularly by the proceedings of the two great Colonial

Conferences, it was natural that he should deal with it as a colonial question, and that when he spoke of the effect of his proposals upon the Empire he should have had in his mind more especially the Colonial Empire of Great Britain.

Now, my Lords, the noble Earl asks us to tell him whether there is a plan for India. The object of the inquiry and the discussion which we have invited, and to which we have had important contributions this evening, is to determine whether a plan can be discovered and to what parts of the Empire that plan should be applied. But the noble Earl assumed throughout his argument that there was a plan, and that the plan had been applied to India; and he gave a very alarming description of the disastrous consequences which such a policy would be likely to involve. I think it will be time to dwell upon any untoward effects which a change might produce when we have determined what our plan is to be, and when we have determined whether India is to be included within its scope. But when I come to the other question of the noble Earl, whether India is to be included within the scope of the inquiry, there, I think, his request for information is a most legitimate one; and I answer unhesitatingly that India certainly does come within the scope of the investigation. And I say more. It is not, to my mind, conceivable that any Government should be found ready in dealing with such a problem to ignore the case of India or even to contemplate the possibility of imposing on India a new fiscal system unsuited to her requirements and repugnant to the feelings of the Government and the people of that country.

With regard to the statements of the two noble Earls, I listened attentively to them, and so far as I was able to follow them, I do not think that I have any reason to differ from the description which they gave of the present fiscal arrangements of India and of their results. I readily, for example, admit the marked contrast that exists between the fiscal systems of India and of the great colonies. The colonial tariff systems are frankly protective. They are designed for the purpose of sheltering domestic industries from external competition. The Indian tariff, on the other hand, is, as has been truly said, a purely revenue tariff; and I therefore freely admit that, so far as the present situation is concerned, India is not in a good position either to give preferences to her friends nor to retaliate upon those who treat her in an unfriendly manner. Then I readily admit what has been said as to the immense importance of the export trade of India. That trade is largely carried on with foreign countries, and it is essential to India that that trade should be afforded the most favourable and most unrestricted outlets possible.

My Lords, we also have to consider not only the interests of India, but the interests of this country as the great creditor of India. The greater part of the debt of India is, I believe, held in this country, and India, if I remember aright, has to remit on account of home charges £17,000,000 sterling per annum. It is perfectly clear that the weight of these heavy obligations falls very largely upon the export trade, the importance of which has been so well described. And not only that, but as the noble Earl told your Lordships, India is a very large customer of this country; I believe it is true that she takes from us imports exceeding in value the whole of the imports of the self-governing colonies, and those imports are no doubt paid for by India out of her gains in respect of the export trade, so that, if we in any way diminish her receipts from her export trade, we diminish her power of buying from us the commodities which she now takes from this country. All these are to my mind obvious propositions, and I need not say they are matters which His Majesty's Government will have to take into their most careful consideration.

I have listened with the utmost sympathy to what the noble Earl said as to the necessity of considering not only the commercial and economic effects of changes of this kind, but also the possible political effects of an alteration in the fiscal system of India. The noble Earl did me the honour of quoting at length from a speech I delivered in this House in 1894. We are sometimes a little dismayed when we are confronted with our bygone efforts of eloquence, but I confess that the passages which the noble Earl quoted did not contain a single word which I now desire to retract. I rather welcome the appeal which has been made to political as distinguished from purely economic considerations, because we too in laying our case before the public have had also to appeal to considerations of the same kind. It is a part of our argument also that it is necessary to inquire into these great questions, and to do so with an open mind, because, for political reasons, if we refuse to do so we shall alienate and offend those great self-governing colonies who have on so many occasions earnestly entreated us to take their requests into our consideration. I am therefore perfectly willing to accept the proposition that these questions cannot be dealt with on economic grounds alone.

Pending the result of the investigation to which we are committed, it is of course impossible for us to answer by anticipation the problems which have been put before us this evening. The noble Earl says to us: "India already treats you so liberally that supposing you hereafter decide to give preferential treatment to your colonies you ought to give that preference to India without any further concession on her part." That is an argument which no doubt will have to be considered at the proper time, but how far it will prevail I cannot undertake to say this evening. I may say in passing that I heard with interest what the noble Earl said with regard to the export of wheat from India. My impression is that the amount of wheat available for export from India depends really not so much upon the amount of wheat produced as upon the amount of other food grains available for consumption. If the harvest of these food grains is abundant, the wheat is not required for home consumption, and my impression is that a large quantity of Indian wheat will in any circumstances be at times available for export, and that an import duty levied here would probably not have very much effect one way or the other upon the amount exported from India. I give the figures from memory, but I think I am right in saying that in 1898 we took from India wheat to the value of about £3,500,000; in 1900 we took virtually none at all, and in 1901 we again took something like £3,000,000. Those figures, I think, show that the fluctuations in the export of wheat are due to causes of the kind indicated by Lord Elgin.

With regard to the Indian case, I think I am justified in saying that no part of the inquiry is less likely to suffer from want of ample expert evidence or of due presentation of the facts. We have in this country a Secretary of State with his Council, and we have in India a Viceroy with his Council. On these Councils there are men of high position, of wide experience, and absolutely independent character, many of them men who have had close and intimate acquaintance with all parts of the Indian Empire, and it seems to me evident that the criticisms and suggestions which we are likely to obtain from such men will form the most valuable testimony which it would be possible for us to procure. The noble Earl on the cross benches the other evening expressed his opinion that this inquiry might well have been entrusted to a Royal Commission. I cannot bring myself to believe that any Royal Commission would be likely to produce with regard to India evidence so conclusive and trustworthy as the evidence which will be procurable from the two great Councils to which I referred a moment ago.

I certainly say in reply to the noble Earl that the Government of India will be fully consulted in regard to this question. We shall consider at the proper time in what form and to what extent the results of that consultation might be made public. But I make this general statement—and I am glad to make it—that our policy is not to conduct this inquiry in a hole-and-corner fashion, but to give the public the facts, the statistics, the information upon which we shall ourselves rely in forming our own judgment; and I say that not only in regard to the case of India, but in regard to all the subjects to which the inquiry will have reference. I make this further remark—that we shall gladly welcome any assistance which we may receive from your Lordships or any other quarters in suggesting information and evidence which might be usefully elicited. I notice from the Paper that Motions are to be made for Papers bearing on this subject. So far as our opportunities permit we shall gladly place your Lordships in possession of any evidence which can be conveniently procured upon this most important matter.

*THE MARQUESS OF RIPON: My Lords, the noble Marquess has not thrown the smallest light upon that great mystery, the inquiry which is going on, we understand, under circumstances unknown to us, and which is alluded to continually by His Majesty's Government, but about which we receive, whenever they speak, no further information whatever. I gather from the conclusion of the noble Marquess's speech that the function of those in this House who are not connected with His Majesty's Government is considered by the Government to be to give them information as to the points upon which they are to direct inquiry. That is a function from which we do not at all shrink, and when I remember how frequent have been the discussions in this House on this question, and how many have been the efforts made to get some more explicit information with respect to this inquiry than we have yet received, I feel that the part allotted to us may be a useful part, but that it would be much more useful if the points submitted and the inquiries made were thought worthy of answer by His Majesty's Government. However, that is not to be the case. We must accept the position which is offered to us, and do what we can in this House, where we have more liberty than in the other House, in which I do not observe on the part of His Majesty's Government that extreme desire to receive information, or to raise debates on this question, which happily exists in the more generous minds of the Members of His Majesty's Government who sit on the Front Bench opposite.

Having also had the honour of filling for several years the office of Viceroy of India, I feel bound to add my support to the remarks of the two noble Earls in regard to this question, which is one of vital importance to India. I feel that the Government are bound to deal with India upon the same principle as that on which they intend to deal with the other parts of His Majesty's dominions. They cannot give preferences to the self-governing colonies without considering the extent of the claims which India may have to preferences on her side. I do not think it has been touched upon hitherto in this discussion, but there is one point in regard to the matter of colonial preferences which is of great importance, as it relates to India. If you are going to give, as Mr. Chamberlain—who is the only Member of His Majesty's Government who is not wrapped up in mystery, unless, perhaps, I include on the other side the Chancellor of the Exchequer, who is frank enough in his statements—if, as Mr. Chamberlain proposes, you are going to give a preference to the imports from the self-governing colonies, and especially from Canada, if you are to give a preference to Canada and to Canadian wheat and do not give the same preference to Indian wheat, you will be protecting Canada against India. You will be giving Canada an advantage in regard to the import of wheat into this country which you do not give to India. I do not suppose that His Majesty's Government will do that, but that would inevitably be the result if you were to give a preference to the self-governing colonies and not to India.

This change of policy involves very grave considerations in regard to India. As has been said over and over again in this discussion, India has a free trade tariff. She was, when she had the tariff which was prepared for her by my noble friend Lord Cromer, the most free trade country, I believe, in the world. Some revenue duties have been put upon her since from the necessities of famine and other grounds, but at that time she was the most free trade country in the world. It is a great mistake for anybody to think that the natives of India—I will go further and say the European inhabitants of India, speaking generally—are in favour of free trade. Their views on that subject are very similar to those that prevail in our colonies. How was it that my noble friend who opened this discussion and myself, and, I think, Lord

Elgin, met the charge which was freely brought against us that in establishing this free trade policy in India we were trying solely to help British manufacturers and were acting on a selfish principle? Our answer was this, that if we thought this free trade policy would do harm to India, if we thought that it would inflict injury upon India in any way, we would not be a party to it. That certainly was the language which I held. I said—

> "The policy of England is free trade. We firmly believe in the justice and in the advantage of free trade, and I support these proposals because I believe that they will confer great and valuable benefit upon India itself."

And that has been the result. You have had figures put before you this evening showing what has been the result of free trade. But if that policy is now to be abandoned in this country, if we are to have preferential tariffs on the one hand and retaliatory duties on the other, we destroy that argument. We can no longer say to the natives and to the people of India: "We advocate a free trade tariff for you because we believe it to be the best tariff for any country, and because we have it in our own country." If we abandon that policy, how are we going to meet that argument in India? You must recollect, my Lords, that the sources of revenue in India are exceedingly limited. Both of my noble friends, like myself, spent a good deal of time in trying to discover new sources of revenue, but they apparently were not more successful than I was in ascertaining whence to get that revenue. Expenditure increases in India. By the changes which have recently been made in regard to military organisation, a sum of nearly £800,000 a year has been placed on the finances of India. How will you meet those charges? India will say—"We wish to meet them by tariff arrangements. We wish to meet them by import duties." Will you have the face, when you have abolished free trade, to refuse to allow India to do that which you allow all your colonies to do—not because free trade is the policy of this country, not because you consider it to be the best policy, and heartily believe in it, but because it suits your own convenience? You cannot do that. The position is not possible. My noble friend Lord Elgin will confirm me when I say that the Excise duties on cotton created very serious difficulty and a good deal of bitter feeling and misunderstanding as to the objects and desires of this country. They were carried because they were based on sound principles of free trade. Once abandon those principles in regard to India, and you cannot maintain those Excise duties and refuse to India that which you allow to all your self governing colonies.

Under Mr. Chamberlain's scheme those colonies are not to give up their protective duties against British goods. What is the method to be pursued? In Canada itself, when preference was first given to us, an increased duty was put upon goods coming from other countries, and we have heard from Australia, and especially from New Zealand—whence a loud voice is heard over the sea from time to time telling us what we ought to do—that the preference that is to be given to us is not to be in the shape of reduced duties on our goods, but increased duties against other countries. I do not for a moment suggest that we should object to their doing this. But I say that if we abandon the free trade ground, we can scarcely resist the claims of India to impose duties on British manufactures. It is one of the unfortunate circumstances of the extraordinary position in which this country stands at the present time upon this question that all sorts of indefinite hopes, aspirations, and beliefs are being raised in every direction, in consequence of the vagueness of the statements which are made by His Majesty's Government, and now we are told that we are to wait till 6th October to be enlightened further on this question. But we are not told when the reply to the 6th of October statement is to be made, and therefore the country will not get full light on the subject even then.

Just look at the consequences of raising these vague and uncertain discussions. I hold in my hand a letter from Mr. Emmott, M.P., which appeared in yesterday's *Times*, and in which he gives an extract from the *Indian Textile Journal* to the following effect. It is headed "Inter-Colonial Free Trade"—

> "The scheme is full of golden promise for this country. Her cotton industry needs the stimulus to its development which such a fiscal arrangement would give. The free circulation of Indian and Egyptian cotton throughout the world, with a tariff charge against American products, would at once

restore to India the great wave of prosperity which she enjoyed in 1861–65, during the period of the American Civil War."

There is more to that effect. It is grievous to think that notions of that kind are to be raised in the minds of the natives of India. I am convinced, as my noble friend said who preceded me, that there is great and serious political danger in raising up hopes of that kind if they are not to be fulfilled, and in encouraging the idea that we are about to abandon the free trade policy in order to adopt a policy of protection, in which case I think we should be bound to relieve India from the obligation under which she now rests, of admitting our products on reasonable terms. I venture to assure your Lordships that the difficulties and the dangers of this question are great indeed, and that it is most desirable, nay, imperative, that something should be done to make more clear and explicit to the natives of India at least, the extent of the policy upon which we are about to embark. If you do not do that you will run the greatest risks. I was sorry to hear the noble Marquess the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs say that the Government of India will be consulted upon this question. I had hoped that the Government of India had already been consulted. It is no use to tell us that Mr. Chamberlain is Secretary of State for the Colonies and that therefore he cannot pay any attention to Indian affairs. If one of His Majesty's Ministers is prepared to propose to the country an entirely new fiscal system, I say that it is his bounden duty, before he makes that proposal, to study it all round.

VISCOUNT GOSCHEN: My Lords, I only rise to ask one Question of the noble Duke the Lord President of the Council or of the noble Marquess the Foreign Minister. I was gratified to hear that the full information which is going to be collected by His Majesty's Government will be placed before the public. I think the declaration of my noble friend was perfectly clear and explicit on that point, the most explicit statement we have yet had. I would only further inquire, without asking the Government to give an absolute date, when there will be a probability of the information being placed in our hands? Is there any chance of the information being forthcoming before the beginning of October? I think it is extremely desirable that both sides should be equally well equipped for argument, and later the controversy, with accurate information, and with the necessary materials for conducting the controversy in the country with knowledge and authenticated figures. I am sure my noble friends will feel that it would be unfair to both sides and to the public if a great portion of the information were already in the hands of members of the Government while those who might feel themselves compelled to contest the Government view were still without the bulk of the information. I would press my noble friend for an assurance that, at all events, as soon as possible, the information, even if it is not absolutely complete, will be made public.

*LORD REAY: My Lords, I wish to endorse the request which has just been made by the noble Viscount opposite. It is undesirable to keep this question open and to allow an immense amount of loose statistics to float about, and thereby whet the appetite for protection which already exists in India, and encourage false hopes which cannot be satisfied. The noble Marquess has invited us to indicate what questions we should like to see placed before the experts in this inquiry. Perhaps, therefore, he will allow me to indicate some of the questions which I think require an answer. If you intend to give a preference to wheat and rice exports from India to this country you reverse thereby the present policy, and in the case of rice, as the noble Marquess knows, you have an export duty of seven shillings a ton on Indian rice. That export duty would undoubtedly have to go if you gave a bounty to export to the United Kingdom. The result of a preferential duty on wheat and rice would be to raise the price to the point at which other countries would be prepared to send their surplus production to the United Kingdom. I would like to ask whether that point will be included in the inquiry.

I do not know whether it is proposed to give a preferential duty in Hong Kong and in Singapore to rice imported from India. The great advantages which accrue to Singapore from its free trade with Cochin China, Java, and Siam, which also export rice, would be lost in that case. A further question arises: If you give a bounty to wheat and rice on export, how will that bounty affect the storage in India of wheat and rice as against recurring famines. We now rely on that storage, but if a bounty is given for export, then that storage may be reduced. Will the inquiry show what compensation you intend to give to the people in India, whose main food is rice, and what expectation you have that in the congested state of the labour market in India there will be a rise of wages? I do not suppose that the introduction of old-age pensions in India is contemplated by any Indian ruler. The Indian agriculturist who grows rice and wheat will reap a benefit from the bounty by the artificial increase in the value of his produce, but the ryot who does not grow wheat and rice will not secure the bounty. Therefore, as between different classes of agriculturists you would create a privileged class. I trust the inquiry will include the question whether it is desirable to create a privileged class of agriculturists in this way. I lay great stress, too, on the point raised by Lord Elgin with regard to the influence of any increase in the price of agricultural produce on the revenue settlements. I can endorse from my own experience my noble friend's contention that there would be very great difficulty in adjusting the land revenue assessments to the artificial rise in price. As the noble Earl who introduced this discussion has shown, with regard to tea you hardly need a preference, because already Indian tea has displaced China tea. But the inquiry will show how a preferential duty in favour of Indian tea will influence the commercial treaty which has lately been made with China, and how it will influence the "open door" policy, which we are trying to obtain from China. The imports from foreign countries into India are either articles which we cannot produce, which we do not manufacture, or which are cheaper elsewhere. What is the object of interfering with those imports and of imperilling the large export trade of India with other countries? As my noble friend Lord Northbrook has shown, no corresponding benefit is likely to arise to our manufactures if we interfere with the trade from India to other countries. The exports to France, Germany, the United States, Italy, China, and Japan, exceed the imports of those countries, and that state of things realises already for India what the advocates of protectionist doctrines are always urging, that we should look, not to the volume of the import trade, but to the volume of the export trade. The balance of trade is in favour of India. Therefore in the inquiry it will be desirable to ask what can be gained by upsetting the existing state of things in India?

India is in the same position as the United States. It is independent of foreign supplies of food, and it is in a strong economic position. Hence the only argument in favour of protection is to encourage the industries and manufactures of India itself. But if you dislocate and unsettle the Indian trade by creating preferential duties in its favour here and preferential duties in our favour in India, what reason is there to suppose that that interference will be beneficial to India? The excess of Indian exports is required for the payment of interest on the capital for public works, on the debt of India, on freights, on home charges, and other private remittances to the United Kingdom. Is there anything in the finances of India at the present moment which calls for a change? Those finances, as the last Budget has shown, are in a very prosperous condition. Then, again, we cannot overlook the fact that the purchasing power of the natives of India is very limited, and to refuse them access to the cheapest market seems to me to be an absolute injustice to millions of our fellow subjects in India. Why should they be compelled to purchase in a dearer market? I trust that when the inquiry is opened, not only the Council of the Viceroy and the Council of the Secretary of State for India will be heard, but that we shall also obtain the opinions of the Legislative Councils of Calcutta and of the various Provinces. I wish also to ask whether it is intended to take the opinion of the Chambers of Commerce in India? It is of the utmost importance to know what they think of this change in the fiscal policy. Hitherto the rulers of India have not tolerated a tariff for other than revenue purposes, and I trust that the inquiry will show which of the rulers of India and those responsible for the fiscal system of India, are in favour of the proposed change.

The only argument — I wish to be quite fair—which I have heard in favour of protection for India is that it might attract capital. But is such an artificial impulse needed ? Cheap labour in India is abundant, and skilled labour you can obtain. To develop the natural resources of the country a steady exchange was required, and that steady exchange you have obtained by recent measures. Manufactured goods have, during recent years, borne an increasing proportion to the raw articles exported from India. Therefore, you have to prove that any further artificial encouragement is necessary. I deeply regret that this controversy should have arisen. Hitherto both Parties have been agreed on what should form the basis of our commercial relations with India. If we unsettle the minds of our Indian fellow subjects we shall only delude them by an experiment which I feel convinced will, if it is tried, destroy the prosperity which has been such a marked feature of the final system under which India has been governed.

THE LORD PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL (The Duke of DEVONSHIRE): I only rise for the purpose of endeavouring to answer the question put by the noble Viscount behind me. The noble Viscount has given me private notice of a Question which he proposes to put to me on this subject next Tuesday, and I will endeavour, as far as I am able, to ascertain before that time how soon it may be within the power of the Government to lay on the Table the Papers which it is their very anxious desire to lay as quickly as possible.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (TRANSFER OF POWERS) BILL.

[THIRD READING.]

Order of the Day for the Third Reading read.

LORD KENYON: In moving the Third Reading of this Bill I will take the opportunity of answering the Question put to me by the Marquess of Ripon last night. My noble friend Lord Balfour was quite correct in the statement he made in reply to the noble Marquess. The object of putting in the saving clause to which attention has been called was this, that in the event of the local authorities succeeding in vetoing the proposed transfer of powers, the Local Government Board should be enabled, if it was found that feeling in the county concerned had changed on the subject, to make a fresh Order.

On Question, Bill read 3ª, with the Amendments, and passed, and returned to the Commons.

House adjourned at twenty-five minutes before Seven o'clock, to Monday next, a quarter before Eleven o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Friday, 10th July, 1903.

The House met at Twelve of the Clock.

THE VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES (Lynn Regis) said he wished to direct the attention of Mr. Speaker to the following entry in yesterday's Votes and Proceedings—

> The Committee proceeded to a Division, and the Chairman stated that he thought the Noes had it ; and, on his decision being challenged, it appeared to him that the Division was frivolously claimed, and he accordingly directed the Ayes to stand up in their places, and Three Members having stood up, the Chairman declared that the Noes had it."

That was an erroneous entry, because it was contrary to Standing Order No. 30, which provided that in such circumstances the Chairman should call on the hon. Members who supported his decision to also stand up in their places. Otherwise the Chairman could not know how many Members, if any, supported his decision. He submitted, therefore, that the entry was erroneous, because the Chairman had not acted in accordance with the Standing Order.

*MR. SPEAKER: No doubt the course stated by the hon. Gentleman is the proper course, and I assume it was followed. Very often a few hon. Members rise in their places on one side of the House; and the opinion of the House being obvious, the Question is not formally put. that the hon. Members who support the Chairman's decision should also rise in their places. Strictly speaking, the Question should be put as regards both.

Mr. GIBSON BOWLES said that otherwise the Chairman could have no knowledge how many hon. Members, if any, supported his decision.

**Mr. SPEAKER*: He may not have any actual knowledge, but he may be able to form an accurate opinion.

UNOPPOSED PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

PRIVATE BILLS [LORDS] (STANDING ORDERS NOT PREVIOUSLY INQUIRED INTO COMPLIED WITH).

Mr. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bills, originating in the Lords, and referred on the First Reading thereof, the Standing Orders not previously inquired into, and which are applicable thereto, have been complied with, viz.:—Bury and District Joint Water Board Bill [Lords]; Scottish Ontario and Manitoba Land Company Bill [Lords].

Ordered, That the Bills be read a second time.

Cheshire Lines Committee Bill; Highland and Invergarry and Fort Augustus Railway Companies Bill. Lords Amendments considered, and agreed to.

Pontypridd Urban District Council Bill [Lords]. Read the third time, and passed, with Amendments.

Cardiff Railway Bill [Lords]; Scottish-American Mortgage Company, Limited, Bill [Lords]. As amended, considered; to be read the third time.

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 10) Bill; Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 14) Bill. Lords Amendments considered and agreed to.

Mr. Speaker.

Alexandra Park and Palace Bill. Reported, without Amendment; Report to lie upon the Table.

Bill to be read the third time.

Castleblaney, Keady, and Armagh Railway (Extension of Time) Bill; Worthing Corporation (Tramways) Bill [Lords]; Derby Gas Bill [Lords]. Reported, with Amendments; Reports to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

Dudley, Stourbridge, and District Tramways Bill [Lords]. Reported, with an Amendment; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire Tramways Bill [Lords]; Bournemouth Corporation Tramways Bill [Lords]; Poole and District Electric Traction Bill [Lords]. Reported, with Amendments; Reports to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

Birmingham Corporation Bill [Lords]. Reported from the Police and Sanitary Committee, with Amendments; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.

That they have agreed to—Amendments to Hastings Tramways (Extensions) Bill [Lords], without Amendment.

That they have passed a Bill, intituled. "An Act to transfer to the Board of Agriculture powers and duties relating to the Industry of Fishing, and to amend The Board of Agriculture Act, 1889." [Board of Agriculture and Fisheries Bill (Lords).]

Also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act to empower the Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses of the county borough of Brighton to construct and work tramways and street works; and for other purposes." [Brighton Corporation Bill (Lords).]

And, also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act to confer further powers upon the South Staffordshire Tramways (Lessee) Company, Limited; for the working of tramways by electrical power; and for other purposes." [South Staffordshire Tramways Bill (Lords).]

Brighton Corporation Bill [Lords]; South Staffordshire Tramways Bill [Lords]. Read the first time; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills.

London School Board (Hilldrop Road Site) Bill. Ordered, That the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills do examine the London School Board (Hilldrop Road Site) Bill with respect to compliance with the Standing Orders relative to Private Bills.—(*Sir William Anson.*)

PETITIONS.

LICENCES RENEWAL AND TRANSFER BILL.

Petition from Hove, against, to lie upon the Table.

LICENCES RENEWAL AND TRANSFER BILL AND LICENSING LAW (COMPENSATION FOR NON-RENEWAL) BILL.

Petitions against: from Edinburgh; and Nottingham; to lie upon the Table.

LICENSING (SCOTLAND) ACTS AMENDMENT BILL.

Two Petitions from Edinburgh, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

MOTOR CARS (SPEED).

Petition from Leeds, against alteration of Law; to lie upon the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

INTERMEDIATE EDUCATION (IRELAND).

Copy presented, of rules made by the Intermediate Education Board for Ireland for the examination in music, dated 26th June, 1903 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

EAST INDIA (PROGRESS AND CONDITION).

Copy presented, of statement exhibiting the moral and material progress and condition of India during the year 1901–2. Thirty eighth number [by Act]: to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 249.]

TRAMWAYS ORDERS CONFIRMATION (No. 2) BILL [LORDS.]

Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 9th July; *Mr. Bonar Law*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 250.]

TRADE REPORTS (ANNUAL SERIES).

Copies presented, of Diplomatic and Consular Reports, Annual Series, Nos. 3020 to 3026 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

TRADE REPORTS (MISCELLANEOUS SERIES.)

Copy presented, of Diplomatic and Consular Reports, Miscellaneous Series, No. 594 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

COMMERCIAL RELATIONS (COMMERCIAL, No. 5, 1903).

Copy presented, of Correspondence with the Governments of Belgium and Germany as to their Commercial Relations with Great Britain and British Colonies [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

Paper laid upon the Table by the Clerk of the House:—

PUBLIC RECORDS (COMPTROLLER AND AUDITOR-GENERAL).

Copy of Second Schedule containing a list and particulars of classes of documents which have been removed from the office of the Comptroller and Auditor-General and deposited in the Public Record Office, but which are not considered of sufficient public value to justify their preservation therein [by Act].

COUNTY COURTS (PLAINTS AND SITTINGS.)

Address for "Returns from every County Court in England and Wales of the total number of Plaints, etc., entered in each Court from the 1st day of January to the 31st day of December, 1902, both days inclusive, distinguishing those not exceeding £20, those above £20 and not exceeding £50, and those by agreement over £50."

"And, of the Sittings of the County Courts in England and Wales holden before the Judges of such Courts in the year 1902 (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper [Cd. 1405])."—(*Mr. Cochrane.*)

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

Spirit Licences to Gold Coast Natives.

SIR JOHN KENNAWAY (Devonshire, Honiton): To ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he has any reports showing that spirit licences have been issued to natives on the Gold Coast; and, if so, can he say how many such licences were issued in the month of February; and what regulations are in force on the Gold Coast and in the other British Possessions of West Africa as to the issue of licences, both with regard to the number issued, the character and qualification of the licencee, and the charge for each licence.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Chamberlain.*) No distinction is drawn between natives and other persons in the Gold Coast laws relating to the grant of spirit licences. I am not in a position to state the number of licences issued to natives during the month of February. The regulations to which the hon. Member refers in the latter part of his Question are contained in the following laws, which can be seen in the Library of the Colonial Office—Gambia—Ordinance No. 9 of 1894. Sierra Leone—Ordinance of the 14th March, 1854; Ordinance of the 8th September, 1856; Ordinance No. 13 of 1874; Ordinance No. 9 of 1901. Gold Coast—Ordinance No. 18 of 1887; Ordinance No. 3 of 1897; Ordinance No. 21 of 1900; Ordinance No. 5 of 1902; Lagos—Ordinance No. 14 of 1893. Southern Nigeria—Proclamation No. 2 of 1901; Proclamation No. 17 of 1902. Northern Nigeria—Proclamation No. 13 of 1900.

Ad Valorem Stamp Duty on Authorised Capital.

MR. T. M. HEALY (Louth, N.): To ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether, seeing that it is usual in England to allow the payment of the ad valorem duty, under Clause 113 of the Stamp Act, 1891, to remain in abeyance until the capital authorised under the Act of Parliament has been raised, and that a similar course in regard to an Irish undertaking was recently refused, and an intimation given that the Commissioners of Inland Revenue had directed proceedings to be instituted for the recovery of the penalties incurred, he will consider how proceedings for the recovery of penalties will affect the investment of capital in enterprises in Ireland and retard the development of its industrial resources, besides increasing the cost of carrying out public works; and whether he will give directions that no proceedings shall be taken in such cases.

(*Answered by Mr. Ritchie.*) The hon. Member is mistaken in thinking that in England it is the practice of the Board of Inland Revenue to agree that payment of this duty may remain in abeyance till the capital authorised under the Act of Parliament has been raised. The duty is charged by law upon the authority to create, not upon the raising of capital, and is payable within one month from the date of the passing of the Act authorising the creation of capital. There is no difference in the practice of the Board as between English and Irish undertakings. Proceedings for penalties are less numerous in Ireland than in England, as might be expected, owing to the comparatively small number of companies in Ireland which attract the duty. I can give no such general undertaking to forbid proceedings as is suggested; but if the hon. Member has in mind any particular case which appears to him a hard one I will, on hearing from him, look into the circumstances.

Imports and Exports for last Half-year.

MR. HERBERT SAMUEL (Yorkshire, Cleveland): To ask the President of the Board of Trade if he will state what is the increase of imports and of exports for the first six months of 1903 compared with the figures of last year, and what has been the average annual increase of imports and of exports in the periods 1873-1882, 1883-1892, and 1893-1902.

(*Answered by Mr. Bonar Law.*) There was a decrease in the value of our imports in the first six months of this year as compared with last of £2,210,000, and an increase of £7,147,051 in our exports of British produce, and of

£3,229,026 in our re-exports of Foreign and Colonial produce. The figures asked for in the second part of the Question are as follows:—

Periods.	Average Annual Value. £	Increase. £
Imports:—		
1873–1882	383,792,000	—
1883–1892	399,517,000	15,725,000
1893–1902	465,160,000	65,643,000
Exports of British Produce:—		
1873–1882	220,065,000	—
1883–1892	234,203,000	14,138,000
1893–1902	*245,445,000	11,242,000
Re-exports of Foreign and Colonial Produce:—		
1873–1882	58,316,000	—
1883–1892	62,425,000	4,109,000
1893–1902	61,509,000	(–) 916,000

---

* Excluding the value of new ships and their machinery, not recorded before 1899.

Scotland to Killeshandra—Delays in Transit.

Mr. M'GOVERN (Cavan, W.): To ask the President of the Board of Trade whether he is aware that the Midland Great Western Railway Company refuses to give a through rate from Killeshandra to Scotland except *viâ* Dublin, which is over 100 miles further from Killeshandra than *viâ* Belfast, and delays by at least twenty-four hours the delivery of perishable goods such as pork, butter, and eggs in hot weather; and, if so, will the Board of Trade use its powers to compel this company to send goods from Killeshandra to Scotland *viâ* Belfast at through rates when requested by the consigners to do so.

(*Answered by Mr. Wyndham.*) Perhaps I may be permitted to reply to this Question. The Department of Agriculture in Ireland has received a complaint to the effect stated, and will make inquiry into the matter.

Postal Facilities at Drumquin, County Tyrone.

Dr. THOMPSON (Monaghan, N.): To ask the Postmaster-General if he is aware of the inconvenience caused to the public and traders by the insufficient postal facilities of the village of Drumquin, County Tyrone; and if so whether he will accede to the request of the inhabitants and grant them a day mail service.

(*Answered by Mr. Austen Chamberlain.*) I am already making inquiry upon the subject, and will communicate the result to the hon. Member as soon as possible.

Telephonic Communication at Mill Hill.

Mr. MOON (St. Pancras, N.): To ask the Postmaster-General whether there is any obstacle to establishing telephonic communication in and with Mill Hill; and, if not, whether he can indicate an approximate date at which this can be done.

(*Answered by Mr. Austen Chamberlain.*) Inquiry is now being made as to the most suitable position for an exchange to serve a large district including Mill Hill, but, owing to the amount of construction work involved in the connection of exchanges in suburban districts with the London system, it is impossible for me to name any date for its opening.

Superannuated Irish Medical Officers.

Mr. J. P. FARRELL (Longford, N.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland can he state the number of Irish medical officers who have been superannuated under the existing Local Government Acts; in how many cases these grants were made voluntarily; and whether the guardians in any case refused; and if so, in how many such cases was superannuation so refused.

(*Answered by Mr. Wyndham.*) Under Section 118 of the Local Government (Ireland) Act, 1898, eighteen medical officers have received superannuation allowances. The local authorities are obliged to grant pensions in the case of all officers qualified as provided by the section.

Farms on the Cusack Estate, County Longford.

Mr. J. P. FARRELL: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether any steps will be taken to prevent the taking of farms on the Cusack Estate, County Longford, pending the completion of the arrangements for sale to the tenants; whether he is aware that efforts are being made to settle planters on this property to the exclusion of the native owners; and, if so, will he represent to the receiver the necessity of not completing any of these lettings till the present Land Bill is passed into law.

(*Answered by Mr. Wyndham.*) The receiver has no power to complete any lettings. These can only be made by the Land Judge to such persons and upon such terms as shall appear to him to be most advantageous to the persons interested in the estate.

Transit of Butter from Killeshandra to Scotland—Alleged Neglect.

MR. M'GOVERN: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been directed to a complaint made to the Department of Agriculture in Ireland as to the manner in which a consignment of butter from Killeshandra to Perth was treated by the Midland Great Western Railway Company on the 4th July; and that this butter was put into a dirty cattle waggon at Crossdoney, which had not been cleansed after being used for the conveyance of cattle; and, if so, will he state what steps, if any, have been taken against this railway company.

(*Answered by Mr. Wyndham.*) The Department has received a complaint of the character mentioned, and is making inquiry into the matter.

NAVAL WORKS BILL.

[SECOND READING.]

Order for Second Reading read.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now read a second time."

*THE CIVIL LORD OF THE ADMIRALTY (Mr. PRETYMAN, Suffolk, Woodbridge) said that on the Money Resolution passed by the House in Committee on Friday last he made a general statement on questions of finance affecting the Bill; and he did not, therefore, now propose to repeat it. Of course, if any hon. Member wished to ask any further questions on points of finance, he should be glad to attempt to deal with them. He then stated the total sum that was asked for; the total sum to be spent; and the total estimated cost of the whole of the works in the schedule of the Bill. He also stated that, as far as they could now anticipate, they hoped that of this series of Acts this Bill was final as regarded the items. The present Board of Admiralty saw no reason to suggest new items to be added. He also stated that the total estimate of the cost was not final. He proposed to give a few particulars as to that when he came to the items. He further stated the list of the new works which they proposed in the schedule. He thought it would now be convenient if he made a general statement of the progress of the existing works; and also made a short statement as to the reasons why the new items were introduced. In the matter of progress, he thought he might claim that the general progress made in the existing works was, on the whole, satisfactory. Of the £6,500,000 voted two years ago for two years' work, there remained unspent £574,000. That was rather a large sum, but he thought he could show the House that there were particular reasons, which could not well have been foreseen, which accounted for that under-expenditure. On several items there had been over-expenditure; but the balance was as he had stated. There had been a considerable sum over-spent. That was to say, that certain works had made more progress than was anticipated or allowed for. On Gibraltar, Dover, Hong-Kong, Keyham, and the Britannia College, they had spent more money than they had anticipated. The House had frequently expressed, as he thought, the proper and business-like opinion that where a contract was issued, and the money voted by the House, to carry out an important naval work, the sooner it was executed the better The House having definitely authorised the expenditure of the money, it was the business of the Admiralty to speed it as fast as they could. Therefore, he said advisedly, that they had succeeded in making more rapid progress, including more rapid expenditure, on those particular works than they anticipated.

There were other works in which progress had not been so rapid as had been anticipated. These works included the Malta breakwater. That followed the principle of all new projects—namely, that they were very difficult to start. They were constantly making allowance for that in those Bills, but they did not seem to be able to make allowance enough When once a work got into swing, then expenditure was comparatively rapid; but the preparation of the plans, the bringing of the contractor's plant on to the ground, and the innumerable matters to be attended to, always caused much delay in the commencement. He was glad to say that the contract had now been let, and he hoped that the work would proceed with ordinary rapidity. For the deepening of harbours and approaches there was a small under-expenditure, not very considerable. In the case of Colombo Dock there had been slight retardation. That was a matter in which the Admiralty were not directly concerned. The Colonial Government were constructing the dock and the Admiralty were making payments suited to their expenditure. In regard to the Malta Dockyard extension there had been considerable delay, and the underspending amounted to £207,000. The reason was that there had been great difficulty in consequence of infiltration. The contractor had not allowed sufficient pumping plant, and he understood that when the necessity for increasing that plant was discovered, it was done rather piecemeal. That had caused considerable delay, though no expense, to the Admiralty. He hoped the difficulty was now mainly overcome. The work was now making reasonable progress. At Bermuda there had been some delay on account of a strike, but they were pressing on with the work, and it was now making fair progress. At Simon's Bay there had been delay, due to the war and the scarcity of labour in South Africa. They had not been able to make the progress which they anticipated with the new coaling item which was added to the Act last year. There were £300,000 underspent on that item. That was mainly due to the fact that they were new works, and to its being impossible to start these works all over the world simultaneously. On the whole the progress was satisfactory. They had made considerable progress at Hong-Kong in connection with the coaling item. He did not wish to weary the House with too many details, but he should be glad to answer any question with regard to the progress of any particular item. The Portsmouth barracks and magazine items were both somewhat behindhand. The Portsmouth barracks were now nearly completed, but there had been some change in the plans on account of the new scheme of training and the increase in the number of men allotted to the barracks. It was difficult to make rapid progress with the magazine item because constant changes in ammunition, and in the policy which was to be followed as to reserves all over the world, made modifications necessary. At Gibraltar the detached mole and the new mole were now completed, except for a little work at the head. The commercial mole would be completed by the end of the year. One dock was practically complete, and the foundation and side walls of the other two docks were nearly finished. So good progress was being made.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES (Lynn Regis) asked if there had been any infiltration at Gibraltar.

*MR. PRETYMAN said there had not been any infiltration at Gibraltar. When the work was first proposed an eminent engineer prophesied that they might as well try to pump out the North Atlantic, but, as a matter of fact, although at Malta they had had great difficulty, at Gibraltar there had been practically none. There had been very considerable criticism in the public Press with regard to Hong-Kong, apparently largely founded on a statement that the work at Hong-Kong was making very slow progress, and that special difficulties in the matter of foundations were being encountered by the contractors. That statement was entirely without foundation. Indeed, measuring progress by expenditure, they actually had spent £170,000 beyond the estimated expenditure; so the progress was exceptionally good.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES asked whether the foundations of the dock at Hong-Kong were really good and adequate.

*MR. PRETYMAN said, so far as they had gone, no special difficulties had been encountered. The work had not yet reached the stage when it could be stated that there would be no difficulty with the foundations; but they had every reason to believe that the foundations would be perfectly satisfactory, and no reason to suppose the contrary. He had no hesitation whatever in making that statement. They could not be perfectly certain as yet. At Chatham the progress was extremely good; but they had now encountered very considerable difficulty through water finding its way in from the adjoining basin. It was impossible in great engineering works of that kind to definitely anticipate that there would be no difficulty; but so far as they could judge nothing unusual need be anticipated as regarded Hong-Kong. There had been considerable correspondence—and the matter had been noticed in the Press—in regard to a proposal that the entire naval establishment at Hong-Kong should be removed to another site. The whole object of that proposal was purely commercial and colonial. From a naval point of view, there was no site as good as that which they now occupied. He thought it would be contrary to all precedent—and he could not suppose that the House would sanction such an operation—to vote an enormous sum of money in order to remove an efficient dockyard from a site where it was properly defended, on an island that was a strategical necessity, to, perhaps, a less eligible site which would have to be defended, merely with the object of enabling the colony to extend their commercial establishments and marine parade.

Mr. GIBSON BOWLES asked whether the works and stores were all on the island.

*Mr. PRETYMAN said they were. There was a time when there was a naval ground on which it was considered desirable to remove the naval establishment at Hong-Kong. They then had only five or six acres of land, but now they had nearly forty acres of land, and they had room enough for the naval establishment, for the necessary stores, and for the long dock which was being constructed. There was also a clear site for another long dock for the largest vessels, should it be necessary at any time to construct one. There was some congestion in the ordnance establishment at Hong-Kong—there was still a joint ordnance establishment for the Navy and the Army. But a committee of naval officers had selected a site on the island for a new ordnance establishment; and negotiations would shortly be commenced for establishing an ordnance depôt on that new site. He hoped they would then have more room at the dockyard, and that the ordnance establishment would be placed on a satisfactory basis. The naval coaling station was established on the mainland. Although that site was suitable for a coaling station, it would not be suitable for a naval dockyard, because there was a difficulty about the water and the anchorage, dredging would be required, and, as they had good reason to know, the price of the land was enormous. They had to pay an exaggerated price for land for a coaling place. Indeed, one would think that the land was in the City of London. They placed the matter in the hands of the colonial Government, who obtained the best value they could, but it entailed a very heavy charge. He thought he need not particularise further.

He would now explain the reasons why increases were proposed in existing items included in the schedule of the Bill. When the Resolution was being debated last week a remark was made that these items were constantly increased without notice to the House. That was not quite the case, because it had been constantly stated as a matter of policy that in regard to three items included in the Act the total estimates were not final, and that increases would be necessary. Those items were the deepening of harbours and approaches, coaling, and magazines. Those three items all included a large number of separate services, and it was found impossible to give a final and conclusive total estimate of the whole cost which might be covered by them. But the control of the House was preserved by the fact that no items were undertaken within any particular two years covered by the Act which could not be covered by the total estimate already approved and included in the Act. The increase in the item for deepening harbours and approaches was to cover the general scheme of dredging which had been already approved. With the approval of the House they had embarked on the policy of purchasing a large and efficient dredging plant, and that policy had been amply justified. There was, perhaps, no item of works on which there was such an extraordinary difference between the cost of doing the work by contract and doing it themselves as there was on dredging. He thought possibly the explanation largely was that the insurance on dredgers was extraordinarily heavy. They did not insure their dredgers, but, fortunately, they had met with very few accidents. He would give the House an instance which would show the remarkable character of the difference. A large work was now going on at Keyham, where about £4,000,000 was being spent on dockyard extension. A great quay wall was being put down in what was now shallow water. The access to that quay would have to be deepened by a very large dredging scheme, something like 4,000,000 yards of rock and mud having to be removed. It was desired, if possible, in order to make more progress with the other works, to have the dredging done by the contractor. It was always better to have the whole work in one hand rather than to have one party [dredging and another going on with the other work. The lowest tender which could be obtained from the contractor was £565,000. Before obtaining the tender the Admiralty had placed one of their new dredgers on the work in order to ascertain at what cost they could do it themselves. They found that, taking the results of that experiment as a basis, they could execute the work with their own plant for £114,000. He should qualify those figures by saying that favourable circumstances were assumed, and that if they met with hard rock which had to be blasted, which they did not anticipate, a further £50,000 might be involved. He thought the House would see that the cost of the dredging plant, which was the best in the world, was amply justified.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES asked what the increase was under this head.

*MR. PRETYMAN said it was £200,000, which was almost exactly the same increase as last year. The increase was necessary in order to enable the whole of the present dredging plant to be worked at full power and, in view of their having decided to do this great work at Keyham, to purchase one more complete set of dredging plant. The increase on the coaling item was £250,000. A round sum of £1,000,000 was taken last year. The House was then informed that that was not absolutely final, but that no more works would be undertaken than could be completed within the estimate. That pledge had been fulfilled, but it was now necessary to extend the work into other places. For £1,000,000 they would complete Malta, Gibraltar, Hong-Kong, Portland, Wei-hai-wei, Haulbowline, Portsmouth, and Devonport, and also provide a floating depôt. It was now necessary to add to these. He wished to ask the House to sanction a further £60,000 for Portsmouth, as, although the complete scheme could be carried out for £100,000 in accordance with the undertaking which was given last year, the scheme would be considerably improved by the expenditure of a further £60,000. At Sheerness they would require to spend possibly £100,000; Ascension, an important coaling station, they had put down for £65,000, and £16,000 for St. Helena. The importance of the coaling item, he thought, could hardly be exaggerated. The policy had been discussed and approved last year, and he need not therefore argue it further. There was a very large increase on magazines, amounting to £460,000. That was a fluid item on which proposals were added as necessary. It was now hoped that these proposals were approaching finality, but he could not definitely promise that it would not be necessary to extend them. The item responsible for the largest share of the increase, £190,000, was the new magazine at Chatham, in connection with which it was proposed to create a subsidiary establishment, with access to the Medway, at Teapot Hard, about four miles below Chatham, in regard to which they had obtained very excellent facilities for shipping ordnance stores and ammunition. It was also in contemplation, in connection with that establishment, to transfer a part of the stores which were now kept at Woolwich to that site. At present there was a very great congestion at Woolwich owing to the Army and Navy stores both being kept in the same magazine, and Chatham was a far better site from their point of view. At Priddy's Hard a further expenditure would be necessary. A Committee had recently been examining into the question of the magazine at Priddy's Hard, and considerable changes would be necessary there. At Gibraltar, where the cost of the magazine work had been larger than was anticipated, further increases were necessary.

There were considerable increases on all the items for naval barracks. None of these increases were due to the works costing more than had been anticipated. They were almost all solely due to increased accommodation and to changes of policy. At Chatham the accommodation originally provided for and covered by the Vote two years ago was for 3,730 men. It was now increased to 4,858 men. At Portsmouth there was additional accommodation for 1,464 men, and at Keyham additional accommodation for 648 men. Besides that, owing to the abolition of masts and yards training, it had become necessary to erect gymnasia in connection with all these establishments. He would quote to the House from *The Blue Jacket*, a paper which circulated largely on the lower deck, to show how the policy of substituting barracs fork hulks had been appreciated by the lower deck. *The Blue Jacket*, referring to the new accommodation at Chatham, said—

> "That as compared with the old it was like comparing Heaven with hell."

That was a strong lower deck expression which he hoped the House would forgive him for repeating. On the Chatham naval barracks there was an increase of £70,000, on Portsmouth naval barracks £120,000. and on these at Keyham £50,000. There was also an increase of £50,000 on the Chatham Naval Hospital, which now provided 600 beds, and there were some additional residences to be provided for and other requirements. He believed that the hospital, when it was completed, would be as well equipped as any existing hospital in the United Kingdom. It had been visited by many competent judges connected with London hospitals, and the arrangements met with their unqualified approval. On the Britannia Naval College there was an increase of £60,000. This was mainly due to the extra wing which would have to be built in order to accommodate the larger number of cadets who would have to be housed owing to the new scheme of entry and training in the Navy. It would also cover the purchase of some additional land which was required in connection with the establishment near the entrance.

Passing to the new proposals, the first was for the introduction of electricity for power and light into the dockyards He gathered in the previous debate that that met with general approval, and therefore he would not elaborate but he should like to give the House one or two reasons which had moved the Admiralty to adopt that policy. Every one would realise that the present system meant a great distribution of power scattered all over the yard, boilers at very low pressure, and a very great waste of fuel. With the power obtained by electric installation they would be able to have the whole power carried all over the yard with little or no waste of energy. It was impossible, also, to carry on night work without electric light, and if we were unfortunately engaged in a naval war, the dockyards would undoubtedly have to carry on night work. They had inquired as to the experience of many large firms throughout the country of electrical power in their establishments, and that experience was most favourable; generally speaking, the firms told them that their output for the same expenditure of power had increased from 25 to 30 per cent. It was evident that there would be much more room in the shops, that there would be no shafting, no belts, more head-room, and an enormous advantage in the matter of tools, especially in the speed with which tools could be worked. With steam they had to have an average speed, which probably did not suit exactly any tool, but with electricity they could have the exact speed for each tool, and tools could be carried to the work, as the system was extremely flexible, and the power could be carried, not only into the shops, but round the docks and the slips. The Director of Dockyards estimated that the saving in extra economy and efficiency would be little less than 40 per cent. in the dockyards as compared with the present system. The Admiralty in dealing with this matter had thought it best to consult a firm of experienced electrical engineers of the highest standing, and had obtained from them a complete scheme, which had been carefully considered also by their own officers, for the establishment of a system for installing electric light and power in each naval establishment. The system had not been dealt with piecemeal, but as a great and consistent whole; sites had been selected in each establishment for the power station, and the scheme allowed a margin for future contingencies and additions if necessary The moment the House approved the expenditure of this money, they would be in a position to put the work under way. The amount asked for this work was £1,500,000; that might not be absolutely final, and if that was not sufficient it might be necessary in two years time to add some small sum.

With regard to Sheerness, there they had an establishment which had been mainly used for the building and repairing of coastguard vessels, sloops, and small vessels which were now obsolete for war purposes. It could not thus be said that Sheerness really fulfilled a very useful purpose to the Navy of this country. The docks were not now long enough to take a modern destroyer, but with very little lengthening they could be adapted to this purpose. They had a great deal at Sheerness which would be very costly to provide elsewhere, for instance, something like 2,000 trained *personnel* available for dockyard work. It had been found that by the expenditure of £250,000 they would be able to adapt Sheerness yard for the carrying out of the whole of the large repairs to all the destroyers. There would be a certain number of strategic bases where there would be repairing ships, called "mothers" in the Navy, which would have forges and armouries on board, and here the minor repairs to destroyers would be executed, but when the destroyer required to be docked she would be taken to Sheerness and dealt with there. This policy, he believed, would be found to be the most economical, for to deal with destroyers at a large yard, and to put one, or even two, into one of the large docks involved an enormous waste of money in pumping out the immense docks which were intended for first-class cruisers and battleships. The specialising of Sheerness to the use of destroyers was really a part of the great policy of specialising to which we were driven by modern requirements. As to torpedo ranges, it was proposed to construct a new torpedo range in the Medway, in close proximity to Teapot Hard, which was now in connection with the Chatham schemes. There was an admirable site there, for there was a tongue of land something over 2,000 yards in length, alongside the river—it would give them a perfectly straight course—and but very little excavation would be required. They also proposed to lengthen the torpedo range at Horsea to 2,000 yards, because the introduction of the gyroscope had so largely lengthened the range of the torpedo. He hoped that the House would realise the added importance which now attached to the torpedo in connection with naval warfare. Every torpedo had to be run thirteen or fourteen times before it was issued and on its return after commission it had to be run again, and consequently considerable space was required for the torpedo establishment in order to keep it up to date. The increase in the fleet had involved an increase in the use of torpedoes, and he could assure the House that the present accommodation was wholly insufficient.

The next new item was that for gunnery schools, which had been combined with the item formerly described as "Naval Barracks for Medway Gunnery School" in the existing Act. That school they had not yet been able to begin, but in the last few days, he was glad to say, the War Office had seen their way to come to an arrangement with them about the site which they had hoped for. The additional money was for another gunnery establishment at Trevol near Devonport, on the Cornish side of the Hamoage; it was an excellent site of over 100 acres. The number of men it was proposed to provide for in each of those gunnery schools at present was 1,000. With regard to the coastguard stations item, he had gathered that the House agreed that it would be desirable to develop our present rental into a charge for extinguishing the cost of acquiring and building stations. This was an item which, although it appeared on this Bill, did not really involve any extra charge. The charges for interest and repayment which would become due on the sum of £500,000 which they proposed to borrow. If it was necessary to increase that sum it would be extended on the same principle. The charge for the payment of interest and the repayment of capital would be no greater than would have to be paid for hiring modern accommodation at all coastguard stations. There were 533 coastguard stations in Great Britain, scattered over remote parts of the coast, and much of the accommodation was of a very inferior character, and to provide sites and erect buildings wherever required would require no little attention and application. They excluded Ireland from this provision, because under the present system the coastguard stations in Ireland were not built out of naval funds, but were put on the Board of Works Vote in the Irish Civil Service Estimates.

MR. BUCHANAN (Perthshire, E.) asked whether there would be in future any item for the purchase of coastguard stations?

*MR. PRETYMAN said there would not be eventually, though it might continue for the next two years. £50,000 only were being taken to start with, but it was expected that the total cost would be at least £500,000, though it would not really add to the annual charge. What the Admiralty now desired was to get the principle approved, and he hoped when the next Works Bill was introduced a final and considered estimate would be placed before the House. The only other new items were in respect of Chatham and Rosyth. The Report of the Berthing Committee specifically referred to both of these items, and reasoned arguments were given showing their necessity. With regard to Chatham, there was at present a very considerable naval establishment there, but it laboured under special disabilities. One special difficulty, owing to the increased size of ships, was the question of the navigation of the upper reaches of the Medway leading to the dockyard, and of the entrances to the basin and the docks themselves. The depth in the channel and over the sill was hardly sufficient to afford proper access for modern vessels, and there was an alternative entrance on the upper side which was practically disused. In order to obtain full advantage of the present basin it was necessary to deepen the channel of the Medway for some distance below the lock entrance, and also to provide a further lock entrance. It was proposed to construct another large basin, two lock entrances, and perhaps two additional long docks. There was no question of acquiring land, as they already had on St. Mary's Island an ample area of land available, adjoining the present dockyard, and eminently suited for the purpose. It was impossible without an extension of this character to accommodate all the ships as they were now being built for the Navy. When this new basin and the two long docks had been added, they would have at Chatham an establishment much on the same scale as at Portsmouth and Devonport. The Berthing Committee's Report laid considerable stress on this point, alleging that it was not desirable to increase any existing establishment beyond a certain point. The establishment at Devonport and Portsmouth had already reached the practical limit of economical extension, and the establishment at Chatham was to be on a similar scale. With the additions now proposed Chatham would be brought up to the standard of Portsmouth and Devonport, and would probably employ some 10,000 or 12,000 hands. The amount taken for this work was only £50,000, and he thoroughly understood the complaint that a final and total estimate had not been submitted in the first instance. If Members would carry their minds back to the experience of the past they would see that the submission of a total estimate at this stage invariably resulted in additions and alterations at a later date. He had with him the statement made in connection with the Naval Works Bill of 1897 by the present Postmaster-General, from which it appeared that in connection with the works at Dover an original estimate of £1,900,000 had to be increased to

£3,500,000. The £50,000 now asked for was to enable the Admiralty to complete their plans and to make the necessary surveys, and the total estimate would be submitted when the next Works Bill was introduced two years hence.

With regard to the item of Rosyth, the new naval base in the Firth of Forth, there was a short discussion on the Resolution stage which aroused considerable interest. He could assure the hon. Member for King's Lynn, who objected to this base on strategical grounds, that the matter had been most carefully considered, and the naval advisers of the Admiralty were of opinion on strategical grounds that the base was admirably situated. It occupied a commanding position in reference to the North Sea, and—what nowadays was of some importance in reference to a naval base for strategic purposes—it was a considerable distance from any torpedo station which could be occupied by any possible enemy. It was not now, as it used to be, desirable to be within easy range of the enemy's station. One of the most important things in future naval wars, he believed, according to the opinion of naval officers, would be to obtain rest for the crews and for any nerves which naval ratings could permit themselves to have. If the anchorage of a fleet was within striking distance of, and accessible to, the destroyers or submarines of a possible enemy it was quite impossible for the crews to obtain real rest. The Firth of Forth also had the advantage that it was already a defended station. Moreover, it was in the immediate proximity of coal and iron, which was an enormous advantage in questions of construction or repairs. A further advantage of having a naval base in Scotland was that they hoped to obtain more recruits for the Navy from that part of the country. No better recruits could possibly be found than those to be obtained from the East and West coasts of Scotland, but a great bar to recruiting at present was that any recruit from Scotland had to join a ship which commissioned on the South coast, so that when the ship came home for purposes of leave he had to go, at great expense and loss of time, from the South of England to, perhaps, the North of Scotland. That would be obviated if he could join a ship which commissioned from a naval base in Scotland. It was hoped that this would be a great incentive to recruiting. A further important advantage was that there would be no great expenditure on dredging. The item for the deepening of harbours and approaches showed the enormous expenditure which had to be incurred in connection with existing harbours, which were originally occupied by smaller vessels, in order that those harbours might accommodate modern ships. When it was realised that a modern first-class cruiser required thirty acres of water to swing, the House would see what a very large area of deep water was required for modern vessels. That area was available on the Forth without any additional expenditure.

It having been decided to establish the base it became necessary to acquire a site, and in this matter the Admiralty had kept in view the history of the existing dockyards, from which it was seen that the greatest difficulty with which the Admiralty had had to contend in recent years was that of extension. The Admiralty had therefore decided to acquire in the first instance a sufficient area of land to allow for any possible extensions which would be required in the future. An area of 1,400 or 1,500 acres, including land and foreshore, had been acquired, and that would be amply sufficient and to spare for any possible establishment. He was very much pressed on a former occasion to state exactly what the Admiralty proposed to do and the establishments they would erect. He would tell the House what the Admiralty proposed to do, but he could not say exactly what works they proposed to erect. They were sending this month to Rosyth Colonel Exham, who for the last eight years had been in charge of the Admiralty establishment at Portsmouth, and than whom there was probably no one in the country better acquainted with the requirements of a large naval establishment from the works point of view. This officer was proceeding to Rosyth, and he would put upon paper a comprehensive plan showing the sites and the details of all the different establishments which would or might be required for a great naval base on the scale of Portsmouth or Plymouth. The country had suffered because the existing dockyards had originally been laid out on too small a scale. They proposed to have this dockyard laid out on paper as if it were going to be a naval establishment on the largest scale provided with all possible known requirements.

Having got this plan, it did not follow that the present, or even the next, Board of Admiralty were going to provide for anything approaching all these requirements. They would decide what were the present needs, and these would be provided with reference to the final and completed whole, so that if any future Board of Admiralty decided to add to them they would find that what existed could be added to without any interference with one item or the other. All the works would be so constructed that they could be individually extended at the least possible cost, and without interfering with the site of any other building. Borings would be necessary, because the sites of the docks and basins would largely depend on the depth of the mud that lay on the rocks. Until Colonel Exham's report was received it would not be possible to make a start with the works. Having received it, the first work would be the erection of barracks, training school, and hospital, and while these were in progress the question of the construction of docks and basins could be considered. It would not be right at this stage for the present Board of Admiralty to pledge their successors to any definite policy as to the erection of these works.

The starting of a new dockyard was an interesting occasion. He thought it might interest the House to hear a few words as to the history of the existing dockyards. He did not wish to labour this point, but he had found one or two interesting things upon this point. His hon. friend behind him had stated that his precedents did not go quite far enough back. Portsmouth dockyard was the oldest in the country. It was supposed to have been founded by King Alfred; at any rate King John on the 20th of May, 1212, ordered works to be undertaken for the enclosure of the docks there. The order was addressed to the Sheriffs of Southampton, and it was as follows—

> "We order you without delay by the hands of lawful men to cause our docks at Portsmouth to be enclosed with a good and strong wall for the preservation of our ships and galleys; and likewise to cause pent-houses to be made in the same walls in which all our ships' tackle may be safely kept. Use as much despatch as you can in order that the same may be completed this summer lest in the ensuing winter our ships and galleys and their rigging should incur any damage by your default; and when we know the cost it shall be accounted to you."

Apparently there were difficulties in getting money in those days. In 1663 Mr. Pepys, who was then Secretary to the Admiralty, inspected the site of a wet dock at Chatham. He said—

> "The place is likely to be a very fit place when the King hath money to do it with."

He apparently found some considerable difficulty in raising the £10,000 necessary for its construction.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES asked whether the hon. Gentleman could give him some estimate of the cost of the new dockyard and arsenal at Rosyth. He also asked why the cost of the new establishment at Osborne was not included in the Bill.

*MR. PRETYMAN said it was quite impossible to give even an approximate estimate of the cost of the new dockyard at Rosyth. It depended entirely on what policy was adopted in the future. They were going to take this survey, but whatever was done now would be done as part of a great and comprehensive whole. All he could say at this stage was that the Admiralty would come down and propose complete works and give a final estimate for those works which they proposed to construct. Whether some future Board of Admiralty would propose other works it was impossible for him to say. With regard to Osborne they did not propose to construct any large permanent building like the Britannia College, and such work as was being done would be met out of the ordinary expenditure of the year.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES asked why the Britannia Royal Naval College was included in the Bill while the Osborne establishment was left out.

*MR. PRETYMAN said that the reason was that Britannia College was a large and substantial building, while the Osborne naval establishment was built upon an entirely different principle. He explained on Vote 10 what they proposed to construct at Osborne was not a large permanent building because that would give them no elasticity or capacity for extension.

*MR SPEAKER: If the Osborne establishment is not in this Bill it is not desirable to discuss it.

*MR. PRETYMAN pointed out that Britannia College was included in the Bill.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES said all he wished to know was why Osborne had not been included in the Bill.

*MR. PRETYMAN replied that the Osborne establishment was built upon a different principle and there was no borrowed money in connection with its construction, and it was being done out of the ordinary expenditure of the year. He thanked the House for listening to so many wearisome details which he had had to inflict upon hon. Members. Reference had been made to the extremely heavy outlay upon these works, but the House would see that this great expenditure was merely part of a considered policy in regard to the increase of the Navy and the increased efficiency of the Navy, and this part was absolutely necessary to the whole. If they looked back into the past they would see that the ships of a century ago were able to equip themselves in a very different way. Unlike the ship of a century ago, which could refit at sea from captured ships or forests along the coast, and could be kept at sea for two or three years together, the modern ship was entirely dependent on specialised articles and specialised stores, and upon scientific equipment of various kinds which could not be improvised, and unless she had within reach a naval base where these articles could be found she was useless for the purposes of war. Take one item alone—that of gunpowder. In the old days there was one particular brand of gunpowder which everybody used, and if one of the King's ships captured an enemy's ship there was the same powder found upon it. At the present time there was a different powder in every service and almost for every different gun. If they wished to use those particular guns they must provide the proper ammunition for them wherever the ships happened to be. He was thoroughly aware that there was only a certain sum of money available to maintain the Navy, and that everything that was spent on works meant so much less upon ships. Upon this point he thought he could hardly do better in conclusion than read a short statement which dealt with this very part of the question. The Intelligence Department of the Admiralty had said that—

> "To add to the number of our ships without providing corresponding means to maintain them in sea-keeping condition would not add to the efficiency of the Navy, but rather the reverse, as an excessive strain thrown on its deficient resources would probably react on the general condition of the Fleet."

That was the true view. The works policy did not originate with the Works Department of the Admiralty, as had been suggested; it was the result of the demands of the Navy, and although the expense was heavy, he did not believe there was one proposal in the Bill that was not absolutely necessary to maintain the efficiency of the Fleet.

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON (Dundee) thought it was to be regretted that there had not been a larger attendance of Members to listen to the full, the interesting, and the important statement that had been made by the Civil Lord. As far as he could estimate the Parliamentary and probably the public interest in this vastly important Bill, he thought it had diminished rather than increased since the first step was taken in Committee of Ways and Means. It was said that the small attendance and absence of interest in this Bill meant that hon. Members were satisfied with it, but he did not take any such consoling view. He believed the real explanation of this absence of interest was that the majority of hon. Members on both sides were unwilling to grapple with great technical difficulties and were absolutely indifferent in regard to the expenditure of money. The hon. Gentleman said that the substance of the Bill was in the schedule. This time there was something in the body of the Bill which would want some attention from the Committee. He did not know whether the House knew that there was a proposal to extend the time during which, under the original scheme, the whole of the liabilities under the Naval Works Acts should be repaid. The new expenses, at least, were now to be paid by annuities, terminable in fifty-five years after the date on which the expenditure was incurred. The payment of the money was, therefore, spread over a longer time, though the annual burden would be less, but considering what they were doing in other Departments in piling up liabilities for posterity, he would rather that the repayment in this case were to take place within a shorter period. That must be a matter for the consideration of the Committee. This schedule of the Bill was really, as on every occasion when such a Bill was brought forward, the part to which the House could alone give any considerable attention. The new items did require more consideration this year, and, in particular, the projects for dockyard extension associated with Rosyth and Chatham. These called for most grave consideration on the part of the House in Committee. He would say at once in regard to this policy of dockyard extension that it could not but be disappointing to many of them that this very large additional outlay should be necessary. Anyone who looked at the schedule of this Bill would see what enormous expenditure on dockyards and harbours had already been authorised at many places. The sum Parliament had already authorised the Admiralty to spend on what was really housing accommodation for the Fleet amounted to no less than £23,000,000. That enormous expenditure having been provided for the stowage of ships since 1895, it was a source of disappointment that further provision should have to be made. But they were in a difficulty in this matter. How was one even to criticise the deliberate proposals of the Admiralty which were founded upon knowledge which could not possibly be possessed by hon. Members, and upon an examination of facts and circumstances which they could not possibly know ?

The hon. Gentleman had alluded to the Report of the Berthing Committee. He was afraid that the hon. Gentleman was wrong in supposing that all the Members who listened to him had read that Report. He doubted if many had read it. It was a pretty stiff Report to read, and it added to the difficulty he had in endeavouring to criticise the new proposals at all. The Committee was appointed to consider the question of accommodation for the growing Fleet, and this was the result of their examination and consideration of the matter. They found that the present naval ports were insufficient for the accommodation of the Fleet, and that other harbourage could only be partially utilised. At page 14 of the Report they gave a list of ships which must be accommodated in naval ports. He would not go into this now, but there they were, and it seemed to him a reasonable statement, and one which it was very difficult to find fault with. The Committee stated that that Fleet would not have the accommodation it would require, unless this new policy of dockyard extension was carried into effect. There were one or two points which suggested themselves to him on this question. One was that they had dwelt a good deal during this session upon the increased Vote for new construction at large, and the increased Vote for repairs. A point that had not been dwelt upon in connection with these matters was that the increases had gone to private contractors. The policy with regard to that was very clearly laid down in the statement of the First Lord of the Admiralty, with which their proceedings this year commenced. It mentioned the employment on a larger scale of private contractors, both in building and repairing, as a policy which was to be encouraged by the Admiralty. But the figures were somewhat remarkable. Last year most of the new shipbuilding was given out to private contractors. It went up by £1,000,000 as compared with the year before, but this year it was a good deal more than a million in excess of last year. If they compared the Estimates this year with those of two years ago they would find that the new shipbuilding going to private yards had increased by something like £2,250,000. In regard to repairs, the difference was almost startling. Three years ago, to go no farther back, one item in the Estimates—he thought it was Item E in the Contract section—

stood at £93,000. That was the amount that went to private yards, but this year under that head the sum was £722,000. This policy, they understood, was to be extended, and he should like to have some explanation of it. He should have thought that the increased amount of work, both original work and repairing, which was given out to private yards, would have relieved the situation in the naval ports, but instead of that they had this policy of employing private yards going on concurrently with the providing of increased accommodation for naval ports. That was a point on which the hon. Gentleman might have something to tell the House.

In this and previous sessions the House had granted to the Admiralty enormous sums for the manufacture of new ships. This year the Admiralty came forward and told them that these new ships which had been sanctioned would be of no use to the Navy unless they provided the additional dockyard accommodation now asked for. On the first point, he for one had not found it possible to accept the mere estimate of the Admiralty as a sufficient reason for larger demands in naval construction. He had said again and again that this depended upon policy for which the Admiralty were not answerable, but with regard to which those who were answerable had so far given no adequate reply. Therefore, so far as the substance of this new policy of extension was concerned, while he took no responsibility for the causes that had led to it, he frankly admitted that from his point of view it was hardly possible to contest the decision at which the Admiralty on its own responsibility had arrived. Now he came to the items of this new extension. The item relating to Rosyth was that which had brought so large a proportion of his colleagues in the representation of Scotland to this debate to-day. They formed a good majority of the House at the present moment. He did not think he was doing his colleagues any injustice in making that suggestion. His hon. friend the Member for East Perthshire had put down a Motion challenging the Second Reading of the Bill on the ground that full financial estimates had not been made.

He should like to say a word or two in regard to the defence made by the Civil Lord of the line of action followed on this occasion both in respect of Rosyth and Chatham. They had what is called a "total vote"—only a statement of the probable expenditure. The issue raised by his hon. friend was that the Admiralty ought to have prepared, not conclusive, or absolutely exact, or final estimates, but some rough estimates, at all events, of the total financial effect of their new proposals. The hon. Gentleman alluded to the case of Dover, and said that when it was put in the first Naval Works Bill a comparatively small amount was allowed. He would remind the House that Dover was pushed into that Bill by this House; it was not in the first draft at all. The Government of the day was compelled by the sentiment of the House to allow it to go in, and under those circumstances no estimate was possible. He dared say that the estimate that followed was below the mark. The hon. Gentleman might have chosen as a better illustration the case of Devonport. The estimate made for Devonport had been largely exceeded, but it was at all events an official estimate. It was made by those responsible for such things to the Admiralty of the day. He had charge of the Bill in question and he could say that with full assurance. He thought that the absence in the present state of any estimate at all gave rise to the inference in the first place that there was not only no estimate but no exact and thought-out plan and policy. That had been fully confirmed the other day by what was said by the Civil Lord. He had asked the hon. Gentleman what kind of a naval establishment this was to be? Was it to be a new Portsmouth? Were they going to undertake shipbuilding there or were they only going to effect repairs on the ships which came into the roadstead? He took it that the Government themselves had not yet made up their mind, that they did not know now what they were going to do at Rosyth. That there were to be naval barracks there, was known; but were there to be large construction works, or were they to take it that they did not know? They had bought land enough to enable them and their successors to do anything they liked. Rosyth might be at any date a full-blown Portsmouth or not, according to the decision of the Government or the Admiralty—a base for shipbuilding as well as repairing. But the point was, should the House of Commons take what he believed to be an entirely new departure in finance in assenting that day to works of this enormous magnitude, the cost of which was unknown, because the extent of them was unknown? He could understand that where the wages of labour were dubious in future years, or that the cost of the acquisition of land was uncertain, the estimate would have to be more or less guesswork; but the essential element in a case of this kind did not depend on these items at all. It depended upon facts which the House did not know; upon what was going to be done at this new naval base. He agreed thoroughly with the principle which his hon. friend the Member for Perthshire sought to establish by the Amendment he was going to move, that, making all allowance for the imperfection of estimates, the Admiralty should, before the Committee stage was reached, come down and tell the Committee what was the rough approximate estimate of the cost of this new naval base.

There was another reason why there should be more precision in the estimate. This was not a case where the expenditure was to be incurred once for all. It depended upon what they were going to erect, whether the cost of the new naval establishment would be anything like the annual cost of Portsmouth, or Devonport, or Pembroke, or Chatham. On these grounds they were entitled to more complete information. They ought to have an estimate not only of the cost of the new works but of what the annual cost of the new establishment was likely to be on the naval Votes. He regarded Rosyth from another point of view. The hon. Gentleman had spoken about the excessive price which the congestion of the population in the neighbourhood of the existing dockyards had put upon the land values. But what was the reason for the excessive price given for the land at Rosyth? The hon. Gentleman said nothing of that that day; but in Committee of Ways and Means he told the Committee that the gross rental of the estate purchased at Rosyth was £1,622 per annum; and that he was going to take authority, by this Bill, to give for that estate a sum of £122,500, with certain rights reserved to the vendor in respect of minerals. An hon. Gentleman, who had now left the House, had been gibing about the Irish Land Bill, but this far transcended the terms given to the landlord in the Irish Land Bill. It was a transaction which must be further probed and about which more information must be given than the House had yet had. He would ask where the money was to be got for this land purchase? He presumed that it was part of the £200,000 of initial expenditure for the year. [Mr. PRETYMAN was understood to assent.] But coming back to the price, the State was the ultimate owner of all the land in the country, including Rosyth, which it needed for its own purposes. Here was this particular bit of land, bringing in something like £1,600 a year. He did not know the price of agricultural land in that neighbourhood. He should suppose it was worth not more than thirty years purchase. [Mr. T. R. BUCHANAN: Twenty-six years purchase.] Well, he would allow thirty years purchase, and £50,000 would be the outside price in the open market for any private person coming forward seeking to acquire the land. He did not know who the owner was, although he believed it was a noble Lord belonging to Scotland. However, that did not matter so far as his argument was concerned. But the Admiralty had given two-and-a-half times the market value, estimated by the best authorities, for this land. Why had they given so much, and how did they make the contract with the owner of the soil? It was a lucky thing for that owner that the naval policy of the country had taken this new direction; but what the Committee wanted to know was by what manner of procedure did the Admiralty fix this price? Did they send a man down to bargain with the owner, telling him that the land was wanted for the Admiralty and leave him to put his own figure on it? Something of that kind must have been done. Why did the Admiralty not adopt the procedure indicated in the first Naval Works Act of 1895? In that Act, foreseeing that the Admiralty would require to purchase land and that the vendor was likely to stand out for a large price, and knowing that the Admiralty had not then the power which the War Office possessed, a clause was inserted in the Act of 1895 which gave the Admiralty the same powers of compulsory purchase which the War Office had. What he wanted to know was why the Admiralty did not proceed to take this land by these compulsory powers, when the price might have been fixed either by a jury or by the alternative system provided for by the Lands Clauses Act? All they had got to do was to make an inquiry, delimit the land, so to speak, pass a Provisional Order by their own authority, and come to the House and ask their assent to the Provisional Order, and then proceed to fix the price by the tribunal provided by the Act. Why was not that course of action taken in this case; and why was this enormous price for apparently a very ordinary bit of Scotch agricultural land to be paid to this noble Lord?

There was only one other point on which he wished to touch. The hon. Gentleman, in speaking about the progress of the works under the old Acts, told the Committee that there had been more work done in some places than in others and that the saving in one Department was used against the excess expenditure in another Department. The total shortage was £1,500,000. He thoroughly concurred in the principle that the Committee should make allowance for excess expenditure over estimates in regard to great works; but he confessed he was astonished to hear the hon. Gentleman say that considerable progress had been made with the establishment at Keyham. He himself had meant to ask why it was that there was so great delay in the completion of the works at Keyham. It was a big business, but those responsible for the original Bill were advised that the works there would be completed in 1903. He observed that every year the date of the completion of the works was postponed in the Naval Works Bill for a few more years; and now it was said that they were not to be completed till 1906–7. The Committee ought to have some explanation of this delay in the completion of the works at Keyham. Now, as to generalities the sum they were going to spend this year under this Bill was £4,000,000 out of the appalling total of £40,000,000. That was the gigantic cost which, although the Navy was intended for the defence of the Empire as a whole, fell wholly on the unhappy inhabitants of this island, because we had practically no contribution from those whom we defended, towards this expenditure—an expenditure which was now so great that all patriotic and sensible men must be becoming alarmed by the possibility of further extension. In face of this unparalleled and terrific expenditure on the Navy, surely they might have expected from the Government some defence of the policy which made the Navy necessary and, at all events, some assurance that they were alive to its dangers and were willing to take the only course which could bring such expenditure to an end—that of inviting other Powers, our alleged rivals, to join in putting an end to this expenditure of public money.

*MR. BUCHANAN said he only proposed to deal with the financial and not with the naval aspect of this discussion. Various suggestions had been put forward from time to time as to modes and methods of retrenchment and economy, one of which was that they should go round cap in hand to the colonies for contributions, but his opinion was that expressed by Prince Bismarck, who said in these matters they must each wash their own doorstep. They must act on their own initiative and their own authority, and if they were not willing to do that they were not likely to embark on any effective retrenchment. It seemed to him that they should determine what their own interests were, and that their naval expenditure was commensurate with the financial resources and the needs of their own people. He did not agree with the Civil Lord that there was a total sum for the Navy, and that if more was spent on naval works there would be less to be spent on the Navy. Experience had shown that there was no limit to the sum put into the Naval Works Bill.

They had to agree to a large initial expense which entailed in succeeding years enormous and consequential increases. He thought if there was one branch of naval expenditure in which retrenchment might be possible, it was with regard to naval works. He quoted Lord Brassey in support of this contention. There were certain new features in this Bill which he thought were bad, and there were old features in it, which were inherent in every Naval Works Bill, which now appeared in an aggravated form. He did not think the House quite realised the length to which they had gone in this policy of naval works. It was commenced in 1895 and had steadily developed until they had reached this enormous expenditure. He did not wish to discuss again the principle which underlay the Naval Works Bill—viz., to construct works of a permanent character out of borrowed money repayable in thirty years, but he retained the opinion that it would have been better to have adhered to the practice which prevailed in this country down to 1895 except in regard to certain rare cases. He recognised there might be exceptional works to be undertaken which it was necessary to pay for with borrowed money, but, if so, certain conditions should be clearly laid down as to what works came within that category and what did not. It was manifest and agreed to by everybody that they might construct out of borrowed money, and not out of the annual Estimates, works which entailed a large expenditure of money, and which were of a permanent character, and which would benefit the country for the thirty years in the course of which the money was to be paid, but they ought not to construct with borrowed money any works which would perish in the using. There were works put into this Bill which ought to be put on the Estimates and which could not fairly be paid for out of borrowed money. While the Bill of 1895 was brought forward as an exceptional measure this system of annual or biennial Naval Works Bills had become a stereotyped Departmental practice in this country. It had produced an alarming and continual increase of naval expenditure, and also resulted in a confusion in the accounts. It was a practice which ought to be deprecated, because it brought in two naval and two military Budgets in one year.

It had been stated that this Bill was to be final as regards works, but not as regards money, but he heard that statement with considerable scepticism, though he recognised that the Government were beginning to recognise the necessity of putting some limit on this vast and increasing expenditure. He did not think the Civil Lord or his successors would be able to hold their own in this matter, because he had observed that the naval expert had acquired command not only of the tiller but of the till. Efforts of retrenchment would be handicapped by speeches of a most sweeping character delivered in the House of Commons by the Chancellor of the Exchequer and others who demanded that no limit should be placed on naval expenditure for the defence of this country. His general objection to a good deal contained in this and previous Bills was that the hon. Gentleman and the Admiralty were really endeavouring to save their Votes and put upon loan money which ought to be put upon the Annual Estimates. For instance, the furnishing of electric light and power in the dockyards was a very necessary reform, and, as a layman, it was a surprise to him that it had not been introduced before, but that appeared to him to be an item that should not be paid for out of capital but out of annual income, and as such should appear upon the Estimates and not on this Loans Bill. The hon. Gentleman had also spoken of coaling facilities, the amount for which appearing in this Bill was £1,280,000, which was an increase of £250,000 on the estimated cost of 1901. Among the works included in that sum was the construction of a jetty at Haulbowline for coaling purposes, for which they were going to pay, not out of the annual Estimates but apparently out of borrowed money, the repayment of which was to be spread over thirty years. There was also to be an extension of the coaling jetty at Portland. If any hon. Gentleman looked through the Naval Estimates, and studied the details of the Works

Votes, he would find that these were just the items that should appear upon the Estimates under the head of works and not be built out of money borrowed, the repayment of which would extend over a generation. Then there was an item for torpedo ranges, for the construction of the new torpedo range and the extension of an existing one. Surely that was expenditure that should be included, as similar expenditure had previously been included, in the annual Estimates. Why was it that the Government were now taking a new financial departure by putting items into the Naval Works Bill which hitherto had been borne on the annual Estimates and paying the expenditure out of borrowed money which ought to be paid out of the annual income.

Passing to the new works, particularly the extension of Chatham dockyard and the construction of the Firth of Forth base, for the first time since the Naval Works Acts were passed, the House was not told the total estimated cost of these works or when it was expected that they would be completed. He had endeavoured to show that this system of naval works legislation had introduced laxity into our financial control. The Government were now going further and asking them to embark on initial expenditure for works of unlimited extent and duration upon the details of which they themselves had apparently not made up their minds. Surely that was unduly interfering with the control which the House ought to possess, and which, in his opinion, was the best support the Government could have in the direction of economy. He did think the hon. Gentleman, in asking for a grant of money for initial expenditure, should give them at least an approximate estimate of the total cost. That surely was a reasonable and moderate demand. He recognised that it might not be possible to give a final estimate, or even one that could be relied upon for a number of years, but seeing that they were now embarking, as the Civil Lord had said, on one of the most important naval works undertaken during the past two or three centuries, they ought to be informed more in detail what was contemplated by the Admiralty and how much it was proposed to spend during the next two or four years. Column 1 in the schedule was a very important column, because it gave information as to the amount of their commitments on works that were being undertaken. Those commitments had of late years risen rapidly. The last return showed commitments to the amount of £27,000,000, and the previous one was £23,000,000. In the present year the hon. Gentleman put the figure at £31,000,000. That figure was quite fallacious, for it did not include an estimate for the Rosyth works or the Chatham extension, and he had told them that the eventual expenditure would be nearer £40,000,000 than £30,000,000. Personally, he was inclined to think it would be nearer £50,000,000. There had been a good deal of discussion recently about the National Debt and the means of paying it off, but they were very apt to lose sight of the fact that while on the one hand they were paying off debt they were accumulating it on the other, and in this and the next year they would be spending some £4,000,000 of borrowed money on naval works which would have to be repaid at a future date. What was the history of the Naval Works Bill? The first one was introduced by the Liberal Government in 1895, and the schedule contained only one column, which gave the estimated expenditure on each work for the ensuing year. But hon. and right hon. Gentlemen opposite, particularly the noble Lord the Secretary of State for India, then insisted on having another column showing the total estimated cost of each work, and also fixing a time limit for their completion. In view of the fact that since 1895 they had been in the habit of receiving this information, he hoped the hon. Gentleman would at some later stage be prepared to supply it to the House in regard to these new works. He begged to move "that this House declines to sanction expenditure on new works for the total cost of which an Estimate is not, as has hitherto been the practice, included in the Bill."

MR. EUGENE WASON (Clackmannan and Kinross) seconded the Motion, and suggested that the Government should inquire into the feasibility of making a canal from the Forth to the

Clyde. Such a canal would be of enormous importance from a strategic point of view. The constituency which he represented was naturally very interested in this question, and he held in his hand a copy of a memorial from the Provost, Councillor and Magistrates of Alloa, addressed to the Secretary for Scotland, asking him to bring this matter before Parliament. The construction of such a canal would save vessels the necessity of going round by Pentland Firth; it would. in fact, shorten the distance by hundreds of miles. There were no engineering difficulties to be overcome, and the financial problem could be easily solved if the Government would guarantee say 2½ per cent. on the capital required. He wished to know why the Government had paid such an enormous price for the land at Rosyth. He had calculated that it represented something like eighty years' purchase, and it certainly required some explanation.

Amendment proposed—

"To leave out from the word 'That,' to the end of the Question, in order to add the words 'this House declines to sanction expenditure on new works for the total cost of which an estimate is not, as has hitherto been the practice, included in the Bill.'"—(*Mr. Buchanan.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Question."

*MR. REGINALD LUCAS (Portsmouth) said he assumed that there was going to be a new naval base and a dockyard, possibly of very large dimensions, at Rosyth, although it was not possible at the moment to give an approximate estimate of the cost. It seemed to him inevitable that we should have a new naval dockyard.

Though, no doubt, they would continue to hear speeches deprecating the immense expenditure incurred in connection with the Navy, he was afraid there was no escape from the expenditure in front of them. He was pretty well acquainted with the dockyards of the country, and he believed that in most cases they had reached their limits of economic expansion. The question was, were they to go in for a policy of building their ships in Government yards or were they to build them in private yards? His view was that in time of war the Government dockyards would be required for repairing purposes, but he considered it was essential that in time of peace the Government should build more of their own ships in their own yards. It was not prudent to depend entirely on the services of private firms, because in times of great stress there might be a dislocation of trade or an upheaval in the labour market which might have the effect of damaging and embarrassing naval preparations and the necessity for speed with which they might be confronted; and they therefore should not allow construction to pass out of Government hands into the hands of private contractors. He would like to make his protest against the principle of giving out so much work to contractors, and to associate himself with those who desired to see more work done and larger provision made for further work in Government establishments. If the Government dockyards were all full now it stood to reason that we must have another one somewhere. He believed Rosyth would be a good place for a dockyard. He knew that the hon. Member for King's Lynn objected to it on strategical grounds, and had quoted Captain Mahan as his authority for the contention that all our naval bases should be on the South Coast. But at the time Captain Mahan wrote his books, the Russian and German navies had not become so important an element as they now were in the situation. They had, in fact, completely altered that situation, and had perhaps made it necessary for us to have a naval base on the East Coast of Scotland. He also could quote a passage from Captain Mahan supporting his view. It was a passage insisting on the importance of the fleets being near at hand to depôts from which they could replenish their stores. Let them do what they could with the existing dockyards—and he was in favour of making them of the greatest use—but they must sooner or later have another one somewhere, and in spite of the strategical objections that had been raised, he maintained that Rosyth supplied the qualifications and advantages which justified the Government in adopting it. They ought to be prepared to make very large concessions, and to give considerable licence to the Government to make the preliminary investigations which they trusted would result in material advantage to the country.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES said, in reference to the money proposed to be spent upon the defence of Dover, he had always considered Dover to be a complete fraud, because it was no use, and was not fit even for a secondary base. With regard to Rosyth, the strategic importance of which he did not regard as very great, if it were true, as had been stated over and over again, that the Government had given eighty years purchase for the land it was the most outrageous scandal ever disclosed to that House. His opinion was that Rosyth was not in a good position even for a secondary base—that was to say, a coal-keeping, biscuit-keeping, slight-repair-making naval base—and that it was eminently unfitted to be a base for arsenal and constructional purposes. The whole question was the value of the place as a strategic point, and that he considered to be very small indeed. A sum of £200,000 was put down for Rosyth, but that conveyed no idea of what was the final expenditure which would be incurred for dockyard and arsenal purposes. As to Dover, it was perfectly monstrous that they should be induced to spend three and a half millions upon it. No naval commander in his senses would allow any fleet to go anywhere near Dover, unless it was going at full speed and in daylight. They had Chatham round the corner and Portsmouth close at hand, and Plymouth a little further on. There was not the slightest defence for the expenditure of this money at Dover, and this proposal seemed to him to be the conclusion arrived at by some sea-sick passenger to the Admiralty who came over on a bad day. The condition of Gibraltar was another serious scandal. All these scandals he traced to the Works Department of the Admiralty, an extremely extravagant Department, far from being as capable as it should be, which, having to do with an extremely well-intentioned but weak First Lord, really overrode him and dictated to him in the most amazing manner. He was not going to dwell at any length upon Gibraltar. They were asked to sanction an expenditure of £5,000,000 to make Gibraltar not stronger but weaker. They had made it less able to maintain itself as a fortress, and they had made it a most tempting objective to an enemy which might wish to deal a blow at England in time of war.

That Bill provided for a total expenditure of £31,640,859. The Civil Lord told them that the items were final. But that did not console him. What he wanted to know was whether there was any finality in the total. It did not console him to be told that they were not new items. He wanted to know what finality there was about the sum the House was pledging itself to, and the answer to this question was conspicuously and completely absent from anything the hon. Gentleman had said. There was an item in the schedule, sub-head (b), "deepening harbours and approaches," of £1,300,000, and a footnote explained that this was "exclusive of the cost of dredging plant purchased prior to 31st March, 1895." Why exclude that cost if it was part of the total expenditure? There was £2,500,000 for Simon's Bay dockyard extension, in regard to which an expenditure estimated at £8,300 was incurred during 1896–7 to 1898–9, which was charged to Vote 10 in those years; at Portsmouth there was an extra sum of £40,466 taken for widening the caisson, in addition to a similar sum expended in 1902; and finally he came to the most flagrant case of all, namely, Rosyth, which figured for £200,000, as to which they were told "this is a token sum only, and does not represent the total estimated cost." What would the Rosyth dockyard and arsenal cost them? They knew what Gibraltar cost. There they had not to pay for the land, but nevertheless the dockyard at Gibraltar cost them £5,000,000 to enlarge. Here they put down £200,000 for the naval establishment at Rosyth, but that sum conveyed no adequate idea or estimate to the House of the final expenditure to be incurred. Take the Chatham dockyard extension, for which £50,000 was taken. That sum would be enormously increased, and they had not got even an approximation of the amount which the country would be asked to spend upon either of these enormous undertakings. He really did think that it was a very extraordinary thing for the hon. Gentleman to come down to the House of Commons and ask hon. Members to authorise the enormous expenditure asked for in this Bill. He was contracting an increasing disquietude with regard, not only to the amount of their obligations, but also to the manner in which they were being piled upon them. This method of Naval Works Bills was an improper method on the face of it, and it was originally introduced upon the excuse that it would only be done once, and would never occur again. Since the present Ministry came into power, this method had been adopted again and again, and it would recur. This was a very serious matter. He had already pointed out the total at present authorised to be spent by this monstrously extravagant Works Department, with regard to which his conviction was that it was not only extremely extravagant, but was also far from being as capable as it ought to be, and had become a sort of wicked Old Man of the Sea, sitting upon the neck of every succeeding First Lord of the Admiralty. The Admiralty was going to buy up the freehold of all the coastguard stations, a most proper thing, and the proposal for electrifying the dockyards was most admirable. But this buying up of the coastguard stations meant making the Works Department permanent. In this total of £31,000,000 the Works Department figured for nearly £1,500,000 for superintending and miscellaneous charges. The Government were spending these vast sums without even an adequate estimate or defence of any one of them. He was tired of this, and if he stood alone he would make his protest against this monstrous expenditure and against the monstrous job involved in the purchase of the land at Rosyth.

MR. THOMAS SHAW (Hawick Burghs) said there were two points in the discussion which seemed to strike everyone. In the schedule to this Bill they were not told anything beyond the fact that this was the first instalment, and that the Government did not know what was to be the scale or even the scheme of the works at Rosyth. They were told that an expert was going down to Rosyth to report upon all the requirements of the station from the works point of view. He wished to put this question very plainly to the Civil Lord: Did His Majesty's Government contend that an expenditure of £8,000,000 at Rosyth would be sufficient? If not, what was the sum total of the money they intended expending there. They were asked to give their sanction in this measure to a grant of £200,000 to start an operation the finality of which was not defined, and the extent of which the Government were not able to tell. He never heard of such a transaction in an Assembly supposed to be composed of business men. There was one item in the transaction which they did know of, and in regard to it he desired to assert his complete accord with the observations of the hon. Member for King's Lynn. The sum of £200,000 had been asked for and voted for the naval base at Rosyth, and in regard to that sum one item was definite, and he had made some calculations with regard to it. He understood it to be actually the case that the Government had concluded a transaction of purchase in regard to land at the Rosyth base. They did not yet know what was to be put on the land, and they did not know what was to be the extent of the works to be erected there. They had yet to receive a report as to how extensive or how limited was the transaction, but the Government had completely made up their minds that they must buy the land, and before the House of Commons knew anything about it they had concluded this transaction. Perhaps the House of Commons would take from him a calculation based upon the statement of the Civil Lord. Here was a pretty little example in land purchase. There were 1,464 acres of land. The rental of that land was £1,620, and the purchase price was £122,500. He would bring this sum down to acres. A total of £1,620 of rental for 1,464 acres was land at the value of 22s. 2d. per acre of rental. So that this Scotch landlord had succeeded in obtaining from His Majesty's Government for land at 22s. 2d. per acre a purchase price of £84 per acre. They had recently been discussing what was the ordinary method of valuing land in Ireland, and he would give the House the result of a comparison he had made. These Scotch landlords, whoever they might be, had obtained a purchase price of 75½ years of the rental of the land. But that was not the whole story. He understood that the mining rights were still reserved to the landlords, and the statement of the Civil Lord with regard to those rights, was that he hoped there would not be much to pay for them in the future, that they were to be subject to valuation, and that possibly a Supplementary Estimate in regard to them would have to be brought before the House of Commons.

This £200,000 was a most curious item, because what expenditure it was going to lead to the Government did not know, but calculated on its own merits two-thirds of that sum was consumed in a purchase transaction, which he would only say was of a startling and incomprehensible character. In regard to the position of the Admiralty in this matter, it could not be pleaded that they had their hands tied in the negotiations. Under the Naval Works Act of 1895 power was granted, not only for the works in that year, but also power of compulsory purchase for all future works undertaken under the ægis of the Admiralty, upon the same principle as that which applied in the Military Works Act, and the Lands Clauses Act. Upon looking into the statutes he found that under Section 20 of the Military Lands Act there was a provision by which Parliament compelled arbitration in all such cases. He wished to ask the Government why arbitration was not resorted to in this case? Was there any reason why the Admiralty should abnegate all its rights granted recently by Act of Parliament, and should have made a transation of this kind behind the back of Parliament, without Parliament having an opportunity of either sanctioning or condemning the scheme? If His Majesty's Government did not desire to use compulsory power, and preferred to make a private bargain, how did the element of consistency stand? There was a precedent to hand in the proceedings of the House of Commons this session in regard to the Irish Land Bill. There was a case in which some of them were in favour of compulsory powers, but His Majesty's Government preferred private negotiations with a bonus. There was a minimum and maximum price fixed of twenty-eight years purchase, and, with the bonus, thirty-two years. In those circumstances, would any hon. Member in the House explain to him why in Ireland a transaction of that kind should be concluded with a possible maximum of twenty-eight years, and a bonus of four years, while the same Government in the same session concluded privately a transaction for the acquisition of a plot of land in Scotland at seventy-five-and-a-half years purchase. He should wait anxiously to hear the defence of that transaction, and he thought Parliament was now beginning to be interested in it. He desired to call the attention to this fact of those hon. Members who were inclined to jib at the Irish transaction.

THE SOLICITOR-GENERAL (Sir EDWARD CARSON, Dublin University): It is not sold there yet.

MR. THOMAS SHAW said they knew perfectly well that the Solicitor-General might have hopes in his mind with regard to that measure, to which up to this date he had only given his minimum support, but it would not do for him to try by an interjection of that kind to divert the mind of the House of Commons from a transaction under which it was plain that a Scotch landlord had obtained more than twice what was to be paid to the landlord interest in Ireland. This transaction was apparently completed. He hoped it was not, and he trusted that the exposure in this House would strengthen the hands of the Government and stiffen their backs before they finally ratified any such transaction. With regard to the site he entirely appreciated the situation in which His Majesty's Government found themselves as to its advantages. He understood perfectly the advantages to be gained from the easy access to *matériel* and the supply of labour; but he would like to know whether any provision was made for the workmen who would be employed and their families. An opportunity now occurred to the Government to prevent once for all the creation of a slum town at Rosyth. Had the Government made any prudent arrangement for the acquisition of the site which would be occupied by the town to be created? He contended that the Government ought to make such arrangements that the town to be built up, should be built under enlightened conditions. Had the Government made arrangements for bringing in a water supply fit for an additional town of 20,000 or 30,000 inhabitants? If not, far from jibbing at the expense, he would willingly see another 1,000 acres added to the 1,464 in order that the Government could protect itself by seeing that the people in that part of Scotland should live under enlightened modern conditions with lung space sufficient for the community, recreation, ample water supply, and all the modern appliances of health and comfort. Unless that were done they would regret in Scotland the day they started this scheme. It would be bad for the Government to say that they took this land for their own purposes; that they would bring the labour to the spot and let the people look after themselves. That meant that the adjacent towns would have dumped down upon them a population living at a considerable distance from the scene of their labours. Then there would be an extreme demand for land in the immediate vicinity of the naval base and there would grow up exactly that condition of affairs which in England and Scotland disgraced borough life.

*MR. PLUMMER (Newcastle-on-Tyne) said that from the speech of the hon. Member who had just sat down the disadvantages of the site at Rosyth seemed to be so great that he hoped the Government would reconsider their decision to establish a naval base in Scotland and consider the advisability of establishing one on the north-east coast of England. He would only detain the House for a few moments while he referred to the naval base at Rosyth. He did not wish to question the establishment of this base because last week it was received with practical unanimity, and by none more so than by hon. Members representing Scotch constituencies. The great feature of this debate was the wonderful change which had apparently come over the opinions of Scotch Members in regard to this particular subject. The hon. Member for King's Lynn opposed this scheme as he opposed almost every scheme of His Majesty's Government. He would leave the hon. Member to the tender mercies of another critic of the Government whom they were always glad to hear—he referred to the hon. Member for Gateshead, who had blessed this scheme, lock, stock, and barrel, although no doubt he had made a mental reservation that there should not be employed in connection with the scheme and its construction any water-tube boilers. His object in rising was to ask the Admiralty in the development of this new naval base not to lose sight of the great existing facilities both for construction and repair on the north-east coast at the present time. To take the Tyne alone there was a great arsenal at Elswick, within easy reach of the Forth, and on the same river there was the shipbuilding yard at Jarrow, where battleships of the largest size had been constructed. There were also engineering works of the greatest capacity, and dry docks capable of taking ships of the largest size. In the past the First Lord of the Admiralty had shown a due appreciation of these private dockyards. The hon. Member for Portsmouth had spoken about the Government dockyards in Portsmouth, and he rightly represented the views of his constituency, just as he was endeavouring to represent the interests of his district. The Admiralty seemed to have preserved a fair balance in the distribution of national work, and it was most essential that the work should be provided in something like a continuous manner, not by fits and starts in time of war but regularly in time of peace. The hon. Member quoted a passage from Cobden in support of this view, and said that although he did not ask the Secretary to the Admiralty to follow the extreme views of Cobden either in this or any other matter, he hoped that in considering the future development of this naval base due regard would be had to the extensive facilities on the north-east coast, and that nothing would be done at Rosyth in the way of creating establishments at great expenditure of capital which would injure those facilities which were within comparatively a stone's throw of Rosyth. It might be said that he was advocating the interests of one district, but they were all sent to that House charged with the responsibility of looking after the interests of their constituencies, and, provided they could do that without neglecting the national interest, he believed they ought to do it. In this case he felt that he could conscientiously advocate the use of the great facilities on the Tyne and the north-east coast, feeling that by taking advantage of those facilities the Government would be pursuing a policy which would be in the interests of national economy.

MR. MUNRO FERGUSON (Leith Burghs) said the hon. Gentleman opposite would remember that they had asked him more particularly as to whether this new harbour was to be a construction harbour. He did not think hon. Members could be charged with any desire to bring work to their own particular districts. He did not agree that that was not any part of their function in this House. In dealing with this subject, although a new port might be welcome in Scotland, it was a very secondary matter as compared with the question of the economical and proper spending of money. What they might fairly complain of was that they had not got the information they desired to have in regard to the plans for the new dockyard, which were left very much in the air, and were really invited to vote £200,000 in the form of preliminary expenses. He must not be taken as concurring in that policy. If this was a good project there seemed to be no reason why the successors of hon. Gentlemen opposite should not be bound by it. He did not see why the Government should have any fear in facing this policy and making it binding upon their successors if it was a good one. They were now asked to vote £200,000 for preliminary expenses, and they ought to have had much more definite information than they had yet received, as to the exact policy which was to be carried out. The reason why he ventured to put forward the argument for making this a construction harbour was that they would get cheaper construction there than they would by an extension of the dockyard at Chatham. It was a matter of little value whether the extra needs of the Fleet were met at Chatham or at the new base on the Forth, but if they got a new base in the north of England they would have far greater economy of construction than in the south. If in this way they set up a better standard of economical construction it would make itself felt in the Government dockyards. What they complained of was that there was still a lack of clearness in regard to the policy which had been declared to the House. As to the details of this Bill, there were one or two points which ought to have appeared in the annual Estimates. He agreed that the item for electric power might have come in the annual Votes and that would tend towards economy. He desired to protest against any scheme that involved extravagance, and he insisted upon the House retaining proper control over naval expenditure. The House did not retain that control under the Naval Works Act, nor had it any control over the policy of the Government in regard to that Act, for the Government had no clear policy to state to the House, and yet hon. Members were called upon to vote huge sums of money and to pay large sums for preliminary expenses for great works, without having any definite scheme laid before them.

*SIR JOHN COLOMB (Great Yarmouth) said the hon. Member for the Border Burghs referred to Rosyth and the arrangements for the purchase of the land there as something which had been done behind the back of Parliament. That was a ridiculous position to take up. In the first place such work could not be done in the House because the particular Minister concerned had to deal with it as administrative work, and he had to report what he had done to the House. The only point he agreed with was with regard to the regret expressed that a larger area of land had not been taken. The hon. Member opposite stated that he regretted that another 1,000 acres was not taken. He believed that if more land had been acquired by the Government it would have given the Admiralty greater control. He wished the House to remember, however, what would have happened if the question of purchasing this extra 1,000 acres had been discussed in the House. The result would have been that the owner of the land would have asked a very much higher price at the end of the debate than at the beginning of it. It was quite essential that these matters should be done without first running to Parliament. Coming to the items on page 2 of the schedule of this Bill he noticed that under the heading "Enclosure and Defence of Harbours" they had expended a sum of about £3,500,000. That was the total amount of the money spent upon ports in the possession of this country abroad. If they took the total estimated cost and made up the aggregate, they would find it came to £7,500,000, and out of all those places Gibraltar was the only single possession abroad that was going in any way to share in the cost. He noticed that Gibraltar was going to pay an annuity of £14,000 per annum for fifty-seven years from the opening of the Mole. In regard to Malta the sum of £1,250,000 was to be spent there, although the revenue of Malta was five times less than Gibraltar. He did not think his hon. friend had made these matters quite clear. With regard to the Colombo dock, they were asked to spend a sum of £159,000, and nothing was contributed to that expenditure by the colony. He thought all these matters should be set out in the statement. He wished to know if this was a contribution to a colonial dock. At Simon's Bay they were proposing to spend £2,500,000, toward which no contribution or assistance was given by the Cape.

In these matters the hon. Member for King's Lynn was a sort of Nelson who had always a blind eye for what he did not want to see. Two main considerations had to be taken into account. First there was the geographical situation of the sources of power of hostile nations; and next the probable direction of the lines of supplying and maintaining our base. With regard to the line of supply we had to look across the Atlantic to Canada as the nearest possible source of supply, and unquestionably the line of supply to Rosyth and going round the North of Scotland, was a safer line than going through the Channel and the German Ocean. These considerations more than justified the Admiralty in the selection of that particular situation. With regard to the item in the schedule for Dover he reminded the House that he objected to the works there at the time they were proposed. He was, he thought, the only man of his Party who voted against the proposal, and as years had gone on the more he had been convinced that it was not a wise expenditure. The House of Commons took a different view and ratified the decision of the Admiralty, and the works having been proceeded with they had now to complete them. He was sure time would show that it was a great mistake, but so far as this Bill was concerned they were in duty bound to complete the works already sanctioned by the House. He thought the question of the price of land at Rosyth ought to be left to the Committee Stage, where it could be examined in all its details. His hon. friend the Member for King's Lynn in a sneering way said that the next thing the Admiralty might do would be to propose the establishment of a base in Australia. In view of the development of local sources of power by three great maritime nations in the Pacific, he did not look with complete reliance on our placing the whole of our resources in this hemisphere. That was a matter which lay in the future, but it would have to be considered before long. He thought this Naval Works Vote was reasonable, rational and sensible. He could see no new departure in this Bill with the sole exception of the base at Rosyth, and that was amply justified. He was glad to observe from this Bill generally that the Admiralty were consistently carrying out a definite policy instead of wobbling about here and there, asking money one day, and in two or three years saying it was a mistake. He had great pleasure in supporting the Second Reading of the Bill.

MR. BLACK (Banffshire) said he desired to associate himself with what the hon. and gallant Member had said with regard to the suitability of Rosyth for a naval base. The Admiralty had at last wakened up to the shifting of sea power on the part of foreign nations which had taken place within the last decade. There was a difference of opinion on the part of some hon. Members who had spoken to-day from what had been written on this subject by Captain Mahan. Captain Mahan began to write eight years ago, and during that period a great change had taken place with regard to the balance of sea power—a change which, he took it, would go on in the future as in the past. In the establishment of this naval base he appreciated very much what had been said by the Civil Lord on the subject of recruiting for the Navy. He hoped the establishment of the new base would revive throughout the whole seaboard of Scotland an interest in the Navy, and increase recruiting which, except in Edinburgh and Glasgow, had almost reached the vanishing point.

He desired to call attention to a matter which had not yet been touched upon in regard to this naval base. On Tuesday last he inspected this base on the spot, under the guidance of one of the engineers already there. Perhaps hon. Members might not be aware of the exact situation of this base. It was to the west of that great structure the Forth Bridge, and all vessels approaching this naval base would require to pass under that bridge. The bridge consisted of three cantilevers, vast in extent, but not very difficult to break down in certain conceivable events. The point he wished to direct the attention of the Admiralty to was this, suppose in time of war the Forth Bridge got destroyed in any of its parts, was it quite certain that it would so fall so as not to form an obstruction of that base? He did not think that it would serve the purpose of the Admiralty to say that it was improbable it would so fall. In a matter so closely affecting the welfare of the country, as this might come to be if the bridge were broken down so as to form a barrier to access or egress, conditions might arise which might involve the ruin of the country. This was not a thing to take risks in, and although the chance was one in a thousand it was a chance which should be provided against. He had consulted an expert, who said that while it was improbable that the bridge would so fall as to cause an obstruction it was not impossible. If one cantilever was destroyed or shot away, one end might fall so as to form a block in the channel. One might theorise as long as one pleased on the subject, but no amount of theory would serve. A cantilever might fall in such a way as to cause an obstruction for a few hours, and these might be fatal hours. He hoped the Admiralty would have due regard to this aspect of the matter. It was true that the position was fortified, but in modern warfare it was not only the approach of a hostile fleet they had to guard against. They had now become familiar with the submarine boat. Therefore the Admiralty should be in a position to say that under no circumstances was it possible that the base could become blocked at a time when it was required. There were two remedies. A canal might be constructed between the Forth and the Clyde, or a second entrance might be made to the base through Inverkeithing Bay by cutting through a neck of land about a third of a mile wide and forty feet above medium sea level, situated to the east side of the Forth Bridge.

With regard to the price paid for the land, he claimed to have some knowledge of land values in the district, and he declared without reserve that a very adequate price would have been twenty-eight years purchase of the net rental, or £42,000. Yet the Admiralty were actually paying nearly three times that amount. This was a matter on which the House should demand some explanation.

*MR. PRETYMAN said he would deal only with the principal points which had been raised, because he could reply more adequately to many of the questions in Committee. The main point was the price which had been paid for the site at Rosyth. He was amazed that hon. Gentlemen from Scotland, who thoroughly deserved the reputation of business men and had some experience of these matters, should have used the expression "a monstrous job." That was an expression which they heard more frequently in debates on questions affecting the sister country.

MR. DILLON (Mayo, E.): We have nothing but jobs there.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND (Clare, E.): Perhaps the hon. Gentleman will allow me to say that giving eighty years purchase for this land to a friend and supporter of the Government is a job.

*MR. PRETYMAN said that bore out his view that these statements made without foundation were lightly made, and perhaps they might fall lightly. They were more often heard in Irish debates than in debates affecting Scotland, where men looked upon business matters from a serious point of view. [An HON. MEMBER: Why do you not treat Ireland seriously?]. Would Ireland like to be treated seriously? The gravamen of this charge was that an area of land of which the rental was about £1,600 a year had been acquired at a price which represented eighty years' purchase on that rental. That was the sole ground on which the Admiralty had been attacked. A further suggestion had been made by several hon. Members that the Admiralty would have done better had they proceeded to put into force the powers of the Military Lands Act which were embodied in a former Naval Works Bill. As to the first point, hon. Members were aware that in the purchase of land there were many values to be considered besides the actual rental. A private company, which he assumed was a business company, had recently paid £9,000 for an area of land on which the rental was £10 a year.

MR. BLACK: Where?

*MR. PRETYMAN said it was somewhere in the neighbourhood of London. The land of Rosyth was in the neighbourhood of Edinburgh.

MR BLACK: How far?

*Mr. PRETYMAN said ten or twelve miles. The hon. Member had himself said that towns and villages were springing up in every direction in this district. The Admiralty obtained the services of two of the most experienced valuers who could be found in Scotland and sent them to Rosyth to make a valuation of the land on behalf of the Admiralty. The owner of the land had a valuation made on his own behalf, but with that the Admiralty had nothing to do. He would give the figures to the House with perfect frankness. The figures which these experienced valuers arrived at were £91,000 for one portion of the land and £22,000 for the other portion. That was about £7,000 less than the price which had been paid. The Admiralty were strongly advised that if they put into force the powers of the Military Lands Act, attendant expenses and the extra price which would probably be obtained would be largely in excess of the difference of £6,000 or £7,000 between the valuation and the offer of the owner. They were strongly advised by business men to close with the offer and to give the price which had been stated to the House. It had been stated again and again that this land might and should have been bought at twenty-eight years purchase. He did not profess to be familiar with the procedure in Scotland; but he was credibly informed, and he thought hon. Members would not deny it, that when land was taken compulsorily in Scotland, under any terms whatever, by a Government Department or by other parties, the price invariably obtained for it by arbitration was thirty years purchase *plus* 50 per cent. for compulsion. [Opposition cries of "Oh," and "No."] Well, that was so in many instances. Only the other day some land not far from this was taken by a corporation, he believed for gasworks, and no less than £1,100 per acre was paid for it.

Mr. BLACK: That is very much nearer Edinburgh. Besides that was considered a monstrous job.

*Mr. PRETYMAN said, although it was much nearer Edinburgh, £1,100 an acre was given for it, whereas only £80 an acre was paid for the land which the Admiralty had acquired. Of course the Admiralty had approached this matter from a business point of view. There was another element, and a not inconsiderable element in the purchase of this land. Lord Linlithgow was not willing to sell. His attitude was that if the land was necessary for naval purposes he would not refuse to sell it. He was unwilling to sell for the reason that this land was purchased in the 17th century and since then had belonged to his family. Moreover, it was exactly opposite his own house. The feuing value of the land in this district was considerable. Evidence was produced—[dissent expressed on Opposition benches]—he was stating facts, and he would not stand at that table and state as facts what he did not know to be facts—satisfactory evidence was produced to the Admiralty, that £15 an acre had been offered, and was being offered, for feuing land in this district. Lord Linlithgow's special reason why he did not wish to part with this land was that it was exactly opposite his windows.

Mr. BLACK : How far?

*Mr. PRETYMAN said there were two miles of water between the house and the land at high water, but there was a foreshore of half a mile, and if any large works were erected on the foreshore they would be in front of the windows of the house at a distance of a mile and a half. That was a point which was treated as amenity by the valuers. By taking away all Lord Linlithgow's Fifeshire property, not only would his Lordship not obtain the benefits of any unearned increment, but the amenity of Hopetoun House would be reduced to a considerable extent. Great stress had been laid on the extreme adaptability of the land for the purpose for which it was acquired; and he thought that, when all these points were taken into consideration, the House would see that the Admiralty, as a matter of policy, and also as a matter of business, had taken the only course which they could have done—viz., to have the land valued and acquired on the best terms they could. He wished they could have acquired it cheaper, but he believed they had made as fair a bargain as one could expect under the circumstances. It had simply been a business transaction. No doubt the present owner would be considerably benefited, but he doubted whether, had the land belonged to any hon. Member opposite, the Admiralty could have got it any cheaper. The land had not been given to them, and if anyone wanted land he had to pay for it. He was of opinion that if the price of the land and the whole circumstances were compared with the general circumstances attending the purchase of land for public purposes, they had not made a bad bargain.

Mr. GIBSON BOWLES asked if the hon. Gentleman was aware that the price paid by the War Office for Salisbury Plain nowhere exceeded thirty-five years purchase.

*Mr. PRETYMAN said that that was purely agricultural land, and was quite a different case from Rosyth, which had very considerable elements of value for feuing purposes in addition. The main point on which he relied was this. Mr. Binnie, of Glasgow, a valuer of the greatest experience, acted on behalf of the Admiralty, and his valuation was within a few thousands of the sum they had to pay. He would also like to point out that their position with regard to enforcing the Military Lands Acts was not a very strong one. These powers were conferred for the purpose of acquiring land for the use of either service for direct military purposes. Several hon. Members had most strongly insisted on the desirability of using a very large portion of this land, not for a direct military or naval purpose, but for the purpose of housing the workmen, and of providing a garden city. It was entirely a new precedent to take land in order to let it out for building workmen's houses with gardens attached; and it was certainly a doubtful point whether land could have been forcibly taken under the Military Lands Acts for these purposes. The hon. Member opposite, and others, had very properly stated the great disadvantage which existed at Devonport, Portsmouth and Chatham, from the congested slum areas in close proximity to the dockyards, and that was one of the facts in the mind of the Board of Admiralty when they acquired this area of land at Rosyth. Two points had to be considered in this matter; one the point of view of the taxpayer, and the other the point of view of the dockyard *personnel*. He trusted the House would never attempt to force on the Board of Admiralty any such policy as he thought was suggested in some of the speeches which had been delivered—the policy of the Admiralty themselves undertaking to build and to supply cottages for the whole of the *personnel* of the dockyard. That policy would be most wasteful and extravagant, and it was not a policy the Admiralty intended to follow. What the Admiralty did wish to do, and what they had had in their mind throughout, was, that when a sufficient area of land had been allotted for naval purposes, immediate and anticipated—for a naval base, for a naval dockyard, and for naval construction—the remainder of the area, which would be considerable, would be available for the housing of the *personnel* of the yard. What the Admiralty proposed to do was to feu or let land on reasonable conditions to private individuals, under such restrictions as seemed necessary to provide sufficient accommodation and air space for the *personnel*. That, he ventured to put to the House was, if an entirely new policy, also a business-like policy.

MR. PIRIE (Aberdeen, N.): What about the mineral rights?

*MR. PRETYMAN said that a part of the land was purchased with complete mineral rights, but Lord Hopetoun's property was purchased subject to the addition of a valuation for minerals, if they should be found there. Stone was included in the price, but the mineral question resolved itself into a question of shale. Shale beds existed on the south side of the Forth, but experts were of opinion that these beds did not extend to the north side of the Forth. The minerals, if they existed, could not be worked by the owner without destroying the amenities of his property, and it had been arranged that any valuation for the minerals should be subject to a deduction on this account. The Admiralty had been obliged to do the best they could in the matter. He had been asked as to the scope of the new establishment. This was probably the first time that any proposal of this character had ever been made to the House. Some hon. Members thought it right that the Admiralty should be pressed to say exactly what they were going to do. He most entirely demurred to that. In a great project of this kind, no wise man would commit himself to details until he had carried out a most careful examination of the site, not only of what was above, but of what was below ground; and had it surveyed and planned by competent engineers. On the question of policy he could only say that the Admiralty had acquired the land, that they had a comprehensive plan for naval purposes, that they were going to proceed immediately to erect buildings necessary for a naval base—barracks, training schools, and a hospital—and when another Naval Works Bill was introduced the Admiralty would probably be able to make a definite proposal in regard to docks and basins, and construction, if there were any constructional proposal. It must be remembered, however, that it was perfectly possible to construct ships in private yards, but that to keep them there was a different matter altogether. It was absolutely necessary that the ships in reserve which might have to be mobilised in case of war within forty-eight hours, should be at the naval bases where were the men, stores, ammunition, and the whole equipment. The question of berthing was one which concerned dockyards and naval bases, but could not concern private yards; while the question of construction was on another footing altogether. It had always been the policy of the Admiralty as far as possible to balance the expenditure in construction between the naval dockyards and the private yards. It was true that this naval base was eminently suited for construction; but it would be really premature at this stage to state that the Admiralty were committed to a policy of construction, although he thought it most likely that when another Naval Works Bill was introduced the House would be asked to sanction a scheme which would cover the construction of ships in these yards.

As to the water supply, that question had been very carefully considered; and they had been met in the most friendly spirit by the local authorities of the county who supplied the district with water. The Director of Works of the Admiralty had met Lord Elgin, the Chairman of the County Council, on the spot, and a scheme was now under consideration for a supply which would meet all possible needs. He thought his hon. friend opposite need not be anxious in regard to the Forth Bridge. There were no less than 200 feet of water beneath one span of the bridge, and 180 feet beneath another, so that it was impossible that the whole area should be blocked to a battleship by the falling of the bridge. There could be no doubt that the existence of a canal would be of advantage to any fleet at St. Margaret's Hope; but whether that should be constructed, or even assisted, out of the Naval Funds was quite another matter, which the Admiralty at present were not prepared to discuss. He thought some hon. Members who had spoken might endeavour to persuade their constituents to construct such a canal which the Admiralty would be very happy to use. The question of finance had been already amply dealt with. The general policy of providing money for great works by loan had been discussed over and over again, and approved again and again, very often without a division. Of course, there would be always differences of opinion as to the exact line which might be drawn between loan and Vote, and the exact allocation of items. He could only say that the Admiralty had considered each case on its merits, and had held that unless works were of a permanent character that would to some extent benefit future generations, they were not proper subjects for a loan. His hon. friend the Member for King's Lynn had that day, as on former occasions, used very strong expressions about the Works Department of the Admiralty. But any charges that were made should, he thought, be specific and in regard to specific actions; to make charges of incapacity generally, and without specific proof, against public servants of the Crown who occupied a delicate and difficult position was not in accordance with the spirit of debate in this House. The officers of the Works Department, so far from being incapable in their work, had produced most excellent work, which would compare favourably with that of the most eminent civil engineers in the country. He knew that the work done by the Admiralty in all corners of the globe had been most excellent. He hoped that the House would now be good enough to give a Second Reading to the Bill. Any further details could be discussed in Committee.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND said that after the attack which had been made upon what was called the sister Isle he must make a few observations. In the first place no Irish Member had spoken in the debate; and in the second place the observation made in regard to judicial purchase in Ireland came from a Scotch Member.

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON said that he had no intention whatever to throw any reflection on the Irish Members

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND said he would go no further on that point. The hon. Gentleman stated that in starting this undertaking some provision had to be made for the proper housing of a large number of workmen to be employed there, but that for the Admiralty to do so would be extravagant and unjustifiable. He thought that that was inconsistent, when they remembered that the Admiralty had paid £80 an acre for land which was worth not much more than £1 an acre. Never let it be said hereafter that Irish Members were indifferent to the public interests. They heard a good deal of talk about patriotism. Where did the patriotism come in when this nobleman would not give the land necessary for a great national purpose unless he received £80 an acre for it? Sometimes they heard things said in this country about what went on in America, and it was stated that this country was completely free from the financial transactions rampant in America. He maintained that nothing had taken place in America that could possibly surpass, or even equal, in any way, this transaction. It was very easy to be patriotic when one got £80 an acre for land which was let at £1 a year.

Question put.

House divided: Ayes, 164; Noes, 73. (Division List, No. 141.)

AYES.

Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Aubrey-Fletcher, Rt. Hn. Sir H.
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Baird, John George Alexander
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J. (*Man'r*
Balfour, Capt. C. B. (*Hornsey*
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Bathurst, Hon. Allen Benjamin
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bond, Edward
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith
Butcher, John George
Campbell, Rt Hn J. A (*Glasg.*)
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Cautley, Henry Strother
Cavendish, V. C. W. (*Derbysh.*)
Cecil, Evelyn (*Aston Manor*)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (*Greenwich*)
Chamberlain, Rt Hon J (*Birm*
Chamberlain, Rt Hn. J. A (*Worc.*
Chapman, Edward
Charrington, Spencer
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Cochrane, Hon. T. H. A. E.
Coddington, Sir William
Collings, Right Hon. Jesse
Colomb, Sir John Chas. Ready
Compton, Lord Alwyne
Corbett, A. Cameron (*Glasg.*)
Corbett, T. L. (*Down, North*)
Craig, Charles Curtis (*Antrim, S*
Cranborne, Lord
Crossley, Sir Savile
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Davies, M. Vaughan- (*Cardign*
Dickinson, Robert Edmond
Dickson, Charles Scott
Dorington, Rt. Hon. Sir J. E.
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers
Duke, Henry Edward
Dyke, Rt. Hon. Sir Wm. Hart
Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas
Faber, E. B. (*Hants, W.*)
Faber, George Denison (*York*)
Fergusson, Rt Hn. Sir J. (*Manc'r*
Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Firbank, Sir Joseph Thomas
FitzGerald, Sir Robt. Penrose
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Flower, Ernest
Forster, Henry William
Foster, P. S. (*Warwick, S. W.*
Gardner, Ernest
Gordon, Hn. J. E. (*Elgin & N'rn*

Gore, Hn. S. F. Ormsby- (*Linc*
Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Graham, Henry Robert
Greene, Henry D. (*Shrewsbury*
Greene, W. Raymond- (*Cambs*
Gunter, Sir Robert
Hamilton, Rt Hn Ld. G. (*Midx*
Hardy, Laurence (*Kent, Ashford*
Harris, Frederick Leverton
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Henderson, Sir Alexander
Hermon-Hodge, Sir Robert T.
Hickman, Sir Alfred
Hope, J. F. (*Sheff., B'tside*)
Hoult, Joseph
Howard, J. (*Midd., Tott'ham*
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Jebb, Sir Richard Claverhouse
Jeffreys, Rt. Hn. Arthur Fred
Jessel, Captain Herbert Merton
Johnstone, Heywood
Kennaway, Rt. Hon Sir John H.
Kerr, John
King, Sir Henry Seymour
Knowles, Lees
Lambton, Hon. Fredk. Wm.
Laurie, Lieut.-General
Law, Andrew Bonar (*Glasgow*)
Lawrence, Sir Jos. (*Monm'th*)
Lawrence, Wm. F. (*Liverpool*
Lawson, John Grant (*Yorks. N R*
Lees, Sir Elliott (*Birkenhead*)
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leveson-Gower, Fredk. N. S.
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Long, Col. Chas. W. (*Evesham*
Long, Rt. Hn. W. (*Bristol, S.*)
Lowe, Francis William
Lucas, Reg'ld J. (*Portsmouth*)
Maconochie, A. W.
M'Arthur, Charles (*Liverpool*)
Majendie, James A. H.
Martin, Richard Biddulph
Melville, Beresford Valentine
Middlemore, Jn. Throgmorton
Mitchell, William (*Burnley*)
More, Robt. Jasper (*Shropshire*
Morgan, Hn. F. (*Monm'thsh.*)
Morrell, George Herbert
Morton, Arthur H. Aylmer
Murray, Charles J. (*Coventry*)
Nicholson, William Graham
Pease, H. Pike (*Darlington*)
Peel, Hn. Wm. Robt. Wellesley
Penn, John
Percy, Earl
Plummer, Walter R.
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Pretyman, Ernest George
Purvis, Robert
Randles, John S.
Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
Reid, James (*Greenock*)
Renshaw, Sir Charles Bine
Ritchie, Rt. Hn. C. Thomson
Roberts, Samuel (*Sheffield*)
Robertson, H. (*Hackney*)
Robinson, Brooke
Rolleston, Sir John F. L.
Ropner, Colonel Sir Robert
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Rutherford, John (*Lancashire*)
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Simeon, Sir Barrington
Sinclair, Louis (*Romford*)
Smith, Jas. Parker (*Lanarks.*)
Smith, Hn. W. F. D. (*Strand*)
Spear, John Ward
Stanley, Lord (*Lancs.*)
Stirling-Maxwell, Sir John M.
Stroyan, John
Talbot, Lord E. (*Chichester*)
Talbot, Rt. Hn. J. G. (*Oxf d Univ.*
Thornton, Percy M.
Tomlinson, Sir Wm. E. M.
Tritton, Charles Ernest
Valentia, Viscount
Walker, Col. William Hall
Walrond, Rt. Hon. Sir W. H.
Warde, Colonel C. E.
Welby, Lt.-Col. A C E (*Taunton*
Whiteley, H. (*Ashton-u.-Lyne*)
Whitmore, Charles Algernon
Williams, Rt Hn J Powell- (*Birm*
Wilson, John (*Falkirk*)
Wilson, John (*Glasgow*)
Wilson-Todd, W. H. (*Yorks.*)
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Wylie, Alexander
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Abraham, William (*Rhondda*)
Asquith, Rt. Hon. Herbt. Hy.
Barlow, John Emmott
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Black, Alexander William
Bowles, T. Gibson (*Lynn Regis*
Brunner, Sir John Tomlinson
Burt, Thomas
Caldwell, James
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, Alfred (*Carmarthen*)
Devlin, Chas. Ramsay (*Galway*)
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Dillon, John
Douglas, Charles M. (*Lanark*)
Dunn, Sir William
Elibank, Master of
Farquharson, Dr. Robert
Fenwick, Charles
Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmond
Foster, Sir Walter (*Derby Co.*
Fuller, J. M. F.
Furness, Sir Christopher
Griffith, Ellis J.
Hardie, J. Keir (*Merthyr Tyd*
Harwood, George
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Charles Seale-
Helme, Norval Watson
Hemphill, Rt. Hon. Charles H.
Hobhouse, C. E. H. (*Bristol, E.*
Humphreys-Owen, Arthur C.
Hutchinson, Dr. Charles Fredk.
Jones, David B. (*Swansea*)
Jones, William (*Carnarvonsh.*)
Joyce, Michael
Labouchere, Henry
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (*Cornwall*)
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leigh, Sir Joseph
Leng, Sir John
Lundon, W.
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
MacVeagh, Jeremiah
M'Crae, George
Mappin, Sir Fredk. Thorpe
Markham, Arthur Basil
Murphy, John
Nolan, Col. John P. (*Galway, N.*
O'Brien, P. J. (*Tipperary, N.*)
O'Kelly, J. (*Roscommon, N.*)
Palmer, Sir C. M. (*Durham*)
Partington, Oswald
Philipps, John Wynford
Pirie, Duncan V.
Redmond, William (*Clare*)
Rickett, J. Compton
Robertson, Edmund (*Dundee*)
Samuel, Herbt. L. (*Cleveland*)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair, John (*Forfarshire*)
Strachey, Sir Edward
Thomas, A. (*Carmarthen, E.*)
Thomas, David A. (*Merthyr*)
Thomson, F. W. (*York, W. R.*)
Tomkinson, James
Toulmin, George
Wallace, Robert
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Wason, John Cathcart (*Orkney*)
Young, Samuel

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Buchanan and Mr. Eugene Wason.

Main Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read a second time, and committed for Monday next.

Adjourned at eighteen minutes before Six o'clock till Monday next.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Monday, 13th July, 1903.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

The LORD CHANCELLOR acquainted the House that the Clerk of the Parliaments had laid upon the Table the Certificates from the Examiners that the Standing Orders applicable to the following Bills have been complied with: Drainage and Improvement of Lands (Ireland) Provisional Order; Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 13); Public Offices (Dublin).

The same were ordered to lie on the Table.

Hexham Gas Bill [H.L.]. Commons Amendments considered, and agreed to.

Bath Corporation Water Bill. Reported, with Amendments.

Seaforth and Sefton Junction Railway Bill. Reported from the Select Committee, with Amendments.

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 5) Bill. Reported from the Select Committee, without Amendment, and committed to a Committee of the Whole House.

London United Tramways Bill. Report from the Select Committee, That the Committee had not proceeded with the consideration of the Bill, no parties having appeared in opposition thereto; read, and ordered to lie on the Table. The Orders made on the 26th of May, and Thursday last discharged; and Bill committed for Thursday next.

Kingston-upon-Hull Corporation Bill; Gateshead Corporation Bill. Moved, That the Order made on the 16th March last, "That no Private Bill brought from the House of Commons shall be read a second time after the 18th day of June next," be dispensed with, and that the Bills be now read 2ª; agreed to; Bills read 2ª accordingly.

Metropolitan District Railway (Various Powers) Bill. Read 3ª, with the Amendments; further Amendments made; Bill passed, and returned to the Commons.

Great Northern Railway Bill, Midland and Belfast and Northern Counties Railways Bill. Read 3ª, with the Amendments, and passed, and returned to the Commons.

Gateshead Corporation Bill. Committed.

Pontypridd Urban District Council Bill [H.L.]. Returned from the Commons agreed to, with Amendments.

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 10) Bill; Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 14) Bill; Cheshire Lines Committee Bill; Highland and Invergarry and Fort Augustus Railway Companies Bill. Returned from the Commons with the Amendments agreed to.

Pier and Harbour Provisional Orders (No. 2) Bill; Pier and Harbour Provisional Orders (No. 3) Bill; Pier and Harbour Provisional Orders (No. 4) Bill. Amendments reported (according to Order), and Bills to be read 3ª Tomorrow.

Pier and Harbour Provisional Orders (No. 6) Bill. Read 3ª (according to Order), and passed.

Metropolitan Police Provisional Order Bill; Harrow Road and Paddington Tramways Bill. Report from the Committee of Selection, "That the Lord Lamington be proposed to the House as a member of the Select Committee on the said Bills in the place of the Lord Belhaven and Stenton; read, and agreed to.

South Shields Corporation Bill; Dublin, Wicklow, and Wexford Railway Bill; Ebbw Vale Water and Improvement Bill; Western Valleys (Monmouthshire) Sewerage Board Bill. Report from the Committee of Selection, That the Lord Lamington be proposed to the House as a member of the Select Committee on the said Bills in the place of the Lord Kilmaine; read, and agreed to.

An Asterisk (*) at the commencement of a Speech indicates revision by the Member.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

BOARD OF EDUCATION.

Statement of schemes for the formation of Education Committees, approved during the month of June, 1903, by the Board of Education, under Section 17 of the Education Act of 1902 (in continuation of Parliamentary Papers, Command Nos. 1564, 1613, and 1659 of session 1903), showing— Name of local authority; number of the council; number of members of the Education Committee; number of members of the Education Committee who are necessarily members of the council; number of women who are necessarily on the Education Committee; forms of educational experience to be represented on the Committee; recommendations or nominations (if any).

TRADE REPORTS: ANNUAL SERIES

No. 3027. United States (Porto Rico).
No. 3028. France (Dahomey).
No. 3029. Italy (Leghorn).
No. 3030. Japan (Hakodate).

JUDICIAL STATISTICS (IRELAND), 1902.

Part II. Civil Statistics.

Presented [by Command], and ordered to lie on the Table.

GAS AND WATER WORKS FACILITIES ACT, 1870.

Report, by the Board of Trade, as to dispensing with the consent of the Farnborough Urban District Council in the case of the Aldershot Gas and Water Provisional Order.

DISEASES OF ANIMALS ACTS, 1894 AND 1896.

Foreign Animals Order of 1903.

Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table.

PETITION.

INTOXICATING LIQUORS.

Petition for restraint of sale of; of the Mossley Temperance Union; read, and ordered to lie on the Table.

PORT OF LONDON BILL.

Report from the Joint Committee, That the Bill ought to be allowed to proceed: The Proceedings of the Committee and the Minutes of Evidence laid upon the Table, and to be delivered out.

IRISH LAND BILL—DATE OF SECOND READING.

***THE EARL OF WESTMEATH**: My Lords, I desire to ask a Question of which I have given the noble Duke the Leader of the House private notice—whether His Majesty's Government can give any indication as to when the Second Reading of the Irish Land Bill will be taken in the House of Lords, and whether they will give an assurance that it will not be taken before August 3. I imagine that my motive in putting this question will not be misinterpreted in any way, but will be readily understood. As your Lordships are aware, an event of a particularly auspicious and gratifying character is about to take place in Ireland, and Irishmen of all classes wish to be on the spot in order to extend a welcome to their Sovereign when he visits their native country. Not content with staying in the Metropolis His Majesty wishes to visit the further portions of the country, and naturally we all desire when he goes there to extend to him a hearty welcome. There has undoubtedly been a certain amount of anxiety that, owing to the rapid progress of the Irish Land Bill in another place, it might be possible to take the Second Reading in this House rather sooner than was anticipated. This, I think, would be much regretted by noble Lords who have the misfortune to be Irish landlords, and who, I imagine, would wish to be in their places when a measure so revolutionary and of such an important character is taken in this House. It occurred to me, therefore, and my action was approved by my colleagues, that the best course would be to ask the noble Duke to give us an assurance that the Second Reading will not be taken in your Lordships' House before August 3, in order to enable those of us who have to be in Ireland on the occasion of His Majesty's visit to return and be in our places when the Second Reading is taken.

THE LORD PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL (The Duke of DEVONSHIRE): My Lords, I understand that, under present arrangements, it is thought that the Third Reading of the Irish Land Bill may be taken in the House of Commons on

Monday, July 27. It is possible that that result may be arrived at later rather than earlier than the date which is now contemplated, but I believe it is not expected to be at all likely that it can be taken before Monday the 27th. I think that, in any circumstances, it would probably be convenient and desirable that a week's interval should elapse before the Second Reading is moved in this House, and especially in the circumstances which have been referred to by the noble Earl. I think the noble Earl and Irish Peers generally may confidently rely on the Second Reading not being taken before Monday, August 3.

EARL SPENCER: The proposal of the noble Duke seems a desirable one to adopt. But there are other important measures to come up to your Lordships from the other House, and I would like to ask the noble Duke whether he can inform us when we are likely to receive the London Education Bill.

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: I will endeavour to reply to the noble Earl's Question to-morrow.

THE PRESERVATION OF WILD ANIMALS IN CENTRAL AFRICA.

VISCOUNT SIDMOUTH: My Lords, I beg to ask His Majesty's Government whether any steps have been taken, or are being taken, in co-operation with other Governments, to carry out the terms of the Convention of 1900, in reference to the preservation of wild animals in Central Africa. It will be in the recollection of your Lordships that about three years ago a Convention was entered into between His Majesty's Government, and, I think, seven other Governments interested in Africa, for the setting apart of a certain zone for the preservation of wild animals. The zone set apart is a very extensive one—it extends from the Atlantic to the Red Sea, and all the European Powers interested in Africa took part in that Convention. In addition to this zone, each Power, I believe, undertook that certain preserves should be set aside, not only for the preservation of these animals from destruction, but also for the encouragement of breeding. About that time, or shortly after, the war broke out in South Africa, and probably the attention of the Powers was diverted from that object, but it is one which I think your Lordships will agree with me is of very great importance. We know that many of these animals have absolutely disappeared altogether. I can recollect when elephants roamed all over many districts which are now thickly inhabited by Europeans. But what I want to ask is, whether any steps are being taken beyond the mere Convention for the promotion of these objects? It is obvious that a great deal more is required to carry out the real objects of the Convention, and that a considerable number of officers must be appointed to enforce the regulations, which are in many cases very stringent. They extend to the preservation of almost every species of wild animal that can be useful to man, and to the preservation, within a certain degree, of animals which might be hurtful but are interesting for scientific reasons. Many kinds of antelopes are mentioned; zebras are mentioned, and I may express the hope that, as science extends in those parts, many of these animals—zebras, for instance—will be found useful for domestic purposes. The African elephant, I believe, has never been used since ancient days for domestic purposes, but it is quite possible that when these districts become better known and inhabited by Europeans the African elephant may be found as useful as his congener in Asia. I beg to put the Question standing in my name.

*THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (The Marquess of LANSDOWNE): My Lords, so far as this country is concerned, steps are certainly being taken to carry out the provisions of the London Convention of 1899, but I find, as regards the co-operation of other Powers, that the ratifications of the Convention have not been deposited. The reason is this. France made a special reservation to the effect that she reserved her obligations to ratify until the adhesion of Abyssinia and Liberia had been obtained. It appears that both these states are reluctant to give their adhesion, I believe, for the reason that they apprehend that they might not find it possible to enforce the provisions of the Convention. But so far as our Protectorates are concerned—I mean British Central Africa, East Africa, Uganda, and the Somali Coast Protectorate—the provisions of the Convention are carried out under regulations framed for the purpose. Under those regulations, for example, there is a prohibition of the export of any tusks weighing less than 11 lbs., and our administrative and Customs officers are all instructed to do their utmost to see that these regulations are respected. Lately we have appointed an official with the title of "game ranger" to watch over the execution of these rules. I am glad to say that, so far as our Protectorates are concerned, we have no reason to believe that large game is in any way decreasing. The matter will continue to be watched, and we will do what we can to obtain the consent of other Powers to prevent the extinction of these interesting animals.

VISCOUNT SIDMOUTH: I do not know whether the noble Marquess is aware that before any destruction of game can take place licences are required from all the Powers.

*THE MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE Licenses are required from the Officials of the Protectorates.

THE FISCAL POLICY OF THE COUNTRY.

LORD HENEAGE, who had given notice, "To ask His Majesty's Government whether they will publish in a convenient form any information in reference to the hostile tariffs of foreign countries, or of the British colonies, which is of material importance to the consideration of the fiscal question now before the country, as well as any evidence of the increase or decrease in the volume of our trade in recent years, which may be prepared for the use of the Government in their present inquiry," said: My Lords, since I framed this Question some three weeks ago a good many things have happened. At that time anyone who had an open mind with regard to an inquiry was liable to hear himself called a protectionist or a traitor to free trade, but now I think everyone is of an inquiring mind. All free traders, as well as everyone else, desire that there should be an exhaustive inquiry, and that every information should not only be obtained by the Government, but should be laid before the country. Public opinion out of doors has changed in this matter, but not more so than opinion in your Lordships' House, because it will be remembered that when this question was first brought forward by the noble Viscount opposite (Viscount Goschen) some weeks ago, he made a speech, and a speech was afterwards made by my noble friend Lord Avebury, which might very easily have been followed by a Resolution that everything was satisfactory under the present free trade arrangements, and that no inquiry at all was needed. But those noble Lords have advanced considerably since that time. The noble Viscount opposite in last Friday's debate on the question from the Indian point of view, was most anxious to obtain information in order that he might find himself fully equipped for the fray in October next, and my noble friend Lord Avebury made a very fair and well-balanced speech on the difficulties which free trade has had to contend with. My noble friend said, and said truly, that the discussions at successive Colonial Conferences could not be ignored, and he reminded your Lordships that the novel systems of bounties, cartels, and syndicates had raised problems which did not exist in the time of Cobden and Bright. My noble friend might have added that the prophecy of Cobden had not come true, and that other countries had not adopted free trade but were, every one of them, protectionist.

The question that we have to decide is whether, after all, we are free traders, or whether we are what the noble Duke called free importers. Cobden sixty years ago said, even when he thought all nations would follow our example, that the time would come before long when we would have to have a revision of our fiscal system, and I think that time has already come. I approach this question as a free trader, as one who is not at all satisfied with the present state of things, and I am most desirous that full inquiry should be made into the present position of free trade and the conditions of our free trade policy. I also desire that inquiry should be made which may lead to some idea of what is likely to be the outlook in the future, which I think is far more important. I am most desirous that not only the members of the Government and the Leaders on the Opposition side of the House, but the nation as a whole should take part in this inquiry, that all the information collected should be given to the nation, and that all those who have a practical knowledge of the various trades which are now subject to hostile tariffs should have an opportunity of going into the figures and facts laid before His Majesty's Government.

We must recollect that two generations have grown up since the last protection election in 1851; they have grown up to manhood and to the franchise. Education makes the artisans of the present day very good judges of facts and figures, and I think that anyone who has addressed them in recent years must have recognised that they are far more intelligent than the farmers and the shopkeepers of forty years ago. What they are all desirous to know is, what is all this free trade controversy about ? Have we really got free trade, and why are other countries protectionist ? They are constantly being told that other countries are far better educated than themselves, and the artisans are desirous of knowing why those who are more educated should prefer protection, and why we alone of all the countries in the world remain free traders. Then they are desirous of knowing whether what they are told on being thrown out of employment—viz., that the hostile tariffs and bounties of other countries are preventing their employers from giving that employment to the workers at home which they would desire, because they cannot sell their goods abroad, is true. Most men of business will, I think, understand how much easier negotiation with other countries is carried out if both parties have something to give as well as something to take. The other day my noble friend Lord Welby asked for a Return of hostile tariffs, and other details, existing in England before 1842, and the noble Duke the Lord President of the Council decided that that Return should be given.

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: I suggested that the noble Lord should move for the Return.

LORD HENEAGE: At any rate, the noble Duke did not object to the Return being granted. I want information about what is going on now in the year 1903. I think that is of much greater importance. I do not think you will find that the electors of this country will be put off by the tales of their grandfathers. I think it most desirable that practical men of business and experts in all trades should consider this question with every information. I am perfectly well aware that the Question on the Paper is in somewhat vague terms, but that is not my fault. I have endeavoured during the last fortnight to draft some form of Return which the Board of Trade would be willing to give, but I have always been met with one of three answers—either that they were too busily occupied in providing material for the inquiry by the Government to devote any time to anything else; or that the particular Return I wanted would be misleading; or that they could not give it. In these circumstances I fell back on the information which the Government are having prepared for themselves, and I thought that at any rate the publication of that could not be objected to, and that the facts and figures upon which the Government formed their decision would be exactly the facts and figures which the country would like to see.

For my own part, I may say that the information I should particularly like would be a list of the chief products of this country with the hostile tariffs of other countries in tabular form, so that they might be easily known. I should also like to have some Return showing the volume of trade of this country at the present time, and the increase or decrease in that volume of trade during recent years, so that by a little trouble it could be easily ascertained how far that was the effect of the hostile tariffs or bounties of other countries. I should like also some information with regard to the income tax Returns. We are told that this is the wealthiest nation in the world, and the income tax is pointed to. I should like to know how much of that income tax revenue is derived from outside this country, how much is derived from capital paying wages to foreigners and from capital paying wages at home. It is well known that many trades have ceased employing hands in all parts of this country, and have set up trades in France, in the United States, and in other countries. That is information I should like to have. I should also like to know how many of these firms have set up factories in other countries. I have not put these requests on the Paper for the simple reason that I thought objection might be raised to them in form or substance, and therefore I content myself with asking the Government to give the country, in a convenient form, that information which will have been prepared for their own use.

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: My Lords, my hon. friend the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs stated on Friday last that the Government were willing, indeed anxious, to supply to Parliament any information which they may be able to collect for their guidance, and which would be for the public advantage to present, and I do not know that I can do more than repeat that intimation, with the addition that it is our desire to lay this information before the House in as convenient a form as possible, and at the earliest possible date. With regard to the specific Question which the noble Lord has placed on the Paper, he has, I think, supplied me to a very large extent with the answer. It appears that the noble Lord has already been endeavouring to arrange with the Board of Trade—the Department which probably would be most qualified to give this information—for the preparation of certain Returns, but that he has been informed by that Department that for various reasons it would not be possible to give the information in the form in which he desires it. I therefore should be rather imprudent if I undertook, in answer to the Question of the noble Lord, to promise that we would supply him with a Return of the exact nature that he asks for. As to what he designates the hostile tariffs of other countries, I conceive that the tariffs of all foreign countries, whether hostile or not, are accessible in documents already before the House. Whether a summary can be made of such tariffs in a convenient form I am unable to say, but it appears that the noble Lord has hitherto been unsuccessful in arranging with the Board of Trade the form of such a Return as he desires. I can only repeat that the Board of Trade is at present extremely busily engaged in obtaining information on all these points primarily for the consideration of the Government. But, so far as we think it is desirable in the public interest and will conduce to a better understanding of this question, it is our desire to lay all this information as early as possible before the House.

House adjourned at five minutes before Five o'clock, till To-morrow, a quarter past Four o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Monday, 13th July, 1903.

The House met at Two of the Clock.

UNOPPOSED PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

PRIVATE BILLS [LORDS] (STANDING ORDERS NOT PREVIOUSLY INQUIRED INTO COMPLIED WITH).

MR. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bill, originating in the Lords, and referred on the First Reading thereof, the Standing Orders not previously inquired into, and which are applicable thereto, have been complied with, viz.:—Pentillie Estate Bill [Lords].

Ordered, That the Bill be read a second time.

PROVISIONAL ORDER BILLS [LORDS] (STANDING ORDERS APPLICABLE THERETO COMPLIED WITH).

MR. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bill, originating in the Lords, and referred on the First Reading thereof, the Standing Orders which are applicable thereto have been complied with, viz. :—Tramways Orders Confirmation (No. 2) Bill [Lords].

Ordered, That the Bill be read a second time To-morrow.

PRIVATE BILLS [LORDS] (STANDING ORDERS NOT PREVIOUSLY INQUIRED INTO NOT COMPLIED WITH).

Mr. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bill, originating in the Lords, and referred on the First Reading thereof, the Standing Orders not previously inquired into, and which are applicable thereto, have not been complied with, viz. :—South Western and Isle of Wight Junction Railway Bill [Lords].

Ordered, That the Report be referred to the Select Committee on Standing Orders.

Merthyr Tydfil Urban District Council Bill. Lords' Amendments considered, and agreed to.

Port Talbot Railway and Docks Bill [Lords]. Read the third time, and passed, without Amendment.

London, Brighton, and South Coast Railway Bill [Lords]. As amended, considered; an Amendment made; Bill to be read the third time.

Lochnell Estate Bill [Lords]; North Western Electricity and Power-Gas Bill [Lords]; Shropshire and Worcestershire Electric Power Bill [Lords]; West Bromwich Corporation Bill [Lords]. Read a second time, and committed.

Frinton-on-Sea Sea Defences Bill [Lords] (by Order). Read the third time and passed, with Amendments. [New Title.]

Bangor Corporation Bill [Lords]. Report [9th July] from the Select Committee on Standing Orders read.

Bill to be read a second time.

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.

That they have agreed to—Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 17) Bill; Local Government Provisional Order (No. 18) Bill; Wolverhampton and Cannock Chase Railway (Extension of Time) Bill, without Amendment.

Borough Funds Bill, with an Amendment.

Local Government (Transfer of Powers) Bill; Local Government Provisional Order (No. 16) Bill; Hyde Corporation Bill; Leigh Corporation Bill; Broadstairs Gas Bill, with Amendments.

Amendments to—Nantwich Urban District Council Bill [Lords]; Sheffield and South Yorkshire Navigation Bill [Lords]; Torquay Corporation Water Bill [Lords], without Amendment.

PETITIONS.

LIGHT LOCOMOTIVES (REGISTRATION) BILL.

Petition from Battersea, against; to lie upon the Table.

LICENSING LAW (COMPENSATION FOR NON-RENEWAL) BILL.

Petition from Cumberland, against; to lie upon the Table

LICENSING (SCOTLAND) ACTS AMENDMENT BILL.

Petition from Milton, for alteration; to lie upon the Table.

SHOPS (EARLY CLOSING) BILL.

Petition from Battersea, against; to lie upon the Table.

SHOPS (No. 2) BILL.

Petition from Battersea, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

TRADE MARKS BILL.

Petition from Manchester, for alteration; to lie upon the Table.

VACCINATION PROSECUTIONS.

Petitions from Trowbridge and Melksham, for alteration of Law; to lie upon the Table.

WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION ACT (1897) AMENDMENT BILL.

Petition from Battersea, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

BOARD OF EDUCATION (EDUCATION COMMITTEES).

Copy presented, of statement of schemes for the formation of Education Committees approved during the month of June, 1903, by the Board of Education under Section 17 of the Education Act of 1902 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

CRIMINAL AND JUDICIAL STATISTICS (IRELAND).

Copy: presented, of Criminal and Judicial Statistics of Ireland for the year 1902. Part II. Civil statistics [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

GAS AND WATER WORKS FACILITIES ACT, 1870.

Copy presented, of Report by the Board of Trade as to dispensing with the consent of the Farnborough Urban District Council in the case of the Aldershot Gas and Water Provisional Order [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 251.]

DISEASES OF ANIMALS ACTS, 1894 AND 1896.

Copy presented, of an Order, dated the 30th June, 1903, entitled the Foreign Animals Order of 1903 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

TRADE REPORTS (ANNUAL SERIES).

Copies presented, of Diplomatic and Consular Reports, Annual Series, Nos. 3027 to 3030 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table,

Paper laid upon the Table by the Clerk of the House:—

INQUIRY INTO CHARITIES (COUNTY OF WILTS).

Further Return relative thereto [ordered 9th August, 1901; *Mr. Griffith Boscawen*]; to be printed. [No. 252.]

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

Medical Examination of School Children.

Sir JOHN BRUNNER (Cheshire, Northwich): To ask the Secretary to the Board of Education whether he is aware that the Secretary for Scotland has publicly stated that some of the larger School Boards in Scotland are conducting a medical examination of the children on a scientific basis, and that it would be the desire of the Scottish Education Department to encourage other School Boards to follow the example; and whether he is prepared to give similar encouragement to English and Welsh local education authorities.

(*Answered by Sir William Anson.*) The question of the medical examination of the children of their area by a local authority is one which the Board consider must be left to that authority to decide; but the Board will, of course, gladly welcome any such step as this which is likely to contribute to the improvement of the health and well-being of the children. I may remind the hon. Member that the Board issued in October, 1901, a circular to the managers and teachers of schools in large towns as to the great importance of proper attention being paid to the eyesight of the children.

Superannuation Allowances for Scottish Public Asylum Officials.

Sir J. FERGUSSON (Manchester, N. E.): To ask the Lord Advocate, considering that no statutory provision exists in Scotland for the grant of superannuation allowances to officers and servants of district and parochial lunatic asylums, while such provision has been made in respect of county and borough asylums in England, of district asylums in Ireland, and of chartered asylums in Scotland, as well as in other departments of the public service, and that the General Board of Commissioners in Lunacy in Scotland have repeatedly in their Reports pointed out that the absence of such provision is prejudicial to the interests of patients in the asylums, the Secretary for Scotland will consider the propriety of introducing a measure to place Scottish public asylum officials on a footing similar to those in English, Irish, and chartered Scottish asylums.

(*Answered by Mr. A. Graham Murray.*) The point will be considered in the event of its being found possible and expedient to propose legislation for the Amendment of the Lunacy (Scotland) Acts, but the Secretary for Scotland is unable to come under any definite obligation on the subject at present.

Physical Training in Scotland.

MR. HARMSWORTH (Caithness-shire): To ask the Lord Advocate whether the Scotch Education Department have yet arrived at any decision as to carrying out the recommendation of the Royal Commission on Physical Training (Scotland) to add a number of medical and sanitary experts to the inspecting staff under the Department.

(*Answered by Mr. A. Graham Murray.*) The Department has been in communication with some of the larger School Boards on the matter referred to in the hon. Member's Question, but they are not as yet in a position to make any proposals to the Treasury.

Pace of Motor Mails.

MR. CATHCART WASON (Orkney and Shetland): To ask the Postmaster-General if he will issue regulations as to the pace at which motor mails may be driven in the public streets; and if he will consider the advisability of adopting some mechanical apparatus which will show the speed at which such cars have been driven during the day.

(*Answered by Mr. Austen Chamberlain.*) The regulations as to the speed of motor vans, to which motors used for the mail service as well as other motors must conform, are laid down by the Local Government Board, and in drawing up the time tables for motor mail vans regard is paid to the authorised speed. I do not think it is necessary to adopt a mechanical apparatus for registering the speed of motor mail vans. We do not use any high speed motors.

Inland Revenue v. McDonnell—Amount of Costs.

MR. DELANY (Queen's County, Ossory): To ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he can state what is the amount of costs in the case of Inland Revenue v. McDonnell, in which judgment has been marked in the Court of King's Bench, Dublin, for £5 5s.; and whether he will say why proceedings were not taken in the County Court.

(*Answered by Mr. Ritchie.*) The costs claimed in this case amount to £4 11s. 4d., and have been taxed. The tax due is £5 5s. Judgment has been marked for the sum of £9 16s. 4d. It has never been the practice to proceed in the County Court for recovery of income tax under Schedule D. The present procedure is authorised by The Taxes Management Act, 1880, Section 111 (1).

Inland Revenue v. McDonnell—Assessment of Income.

MR. DELANY: To ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he is aware that judgment under a writ in the High Courts has been obtained against Michael McDonnell of Abbeyleix, for the sum of £5 5s. and costs at the suit of the Inland Revenue for income tax; and whether, seeing that Mr. McDonnell occupies a small house rented at £15 a year, and that he possesses no income from any source except what he derives from the calling of poultry and egg dealer, which he pursues on a small scale, he will state upon what grounds the assessment was made.

(*Answered by Mr. Ritchie.*) The assessment was fixed by the Special Commissioners of Income Tax, who, after hearing a personal appeal from Mr. McDonnell, were satisfied that the business carried on by him was of such a nature as to justify the charge.

Coasting Steamers—Uncertificated Officers.

SIR JOHN LENG (Dundee): To ask the Secretary to the Board of Trade whether steamers are allowed to run along the coasts of the United Kingdom without any certificated officers on board, with the result that, in the event of collisions occurring leading to loss of life, the Board of Trade have no power of dealing with such officers; also, if there is any intention of applying a remedy for the loss of life and property arising from the carelessness of unqualified masters and mates in coasting vessels.

(*Answered by Mr. Gerald Balfour.*) The provisions of the Merchant Shipping Act as to carrying certificated officers on board British ships apply only to foreign-going ships and to home trade passenger ships. British vessels not belonging to those classes of ships are not required by law to carry certificated officers. It is, however, possible for a Court holding a formal investigation into a casualty to any British vessel to punish the officers involved by ordering them to pay the costs of the investigation. The question of legislating referred to by the hon. Member is a matter that would require consideration, and I am not at present prepared to express an opinion upon it.

Removal of Sunken Boat at Baltasound.

MR. CATHCART WASON: To ask the Secretary to the Board of Trade if his attention has been called to the fact that a boat sunk in the fairway at Baltasound is dangerous to navigation, and if steps will be taken to have the same removed.

(*Answered by Mr. Gerald Balfour.*) I have no information respecting the casualty beyond that conveyed to me by the hon. Member. I will call the attention of the Commissioners of Northern Lighthouses to the matter, and they will do doubt take such steps as are necessary for the protection of navigation.

Tonnage of Fishing Boats.

MR. CATHCART WASON: To ask the Secretary to the Board of Trade, if his attention has been called to the disadvantages under which fishermen labour where no Board of Trade surveyor is available owing to the adoption of rules now in force for ascertaining tonnage of fishing boats; and, if so, will he state what steps he proposes to take in the matter.

(*Answered by Mr. Gerald Balfour.*) In consequence of complaints received as to the difficulty of applying the provisions of The Merchant Shipping Act, 1894, to Scottish fishing boats, the Board of Trade, having regard to all the circumstances, propose to revert to the old method of measurement known as the Test Rule. Under this Rule the tonnage measurement of fishing boats can be determined by Coastguard, Customs, or Scottish Fishery Board officers, and consequently the attendance of a Board of Trade surveyor will not be necessary.

Regulation of Size of Motor-Car Tyres.

MR. HENRY HOBHOUSE (Somersetshire, E.): To ask the President of the Local Government Board whether any public authority has power to regulate the width of tyres of motor-cars between one and three tons in weight, and if any such regulations have been made; and, if not, if he will see that any necessary power to make such regulations shall be included in the proposed legislation on motor-cars.

(*Answered by Mr. Walter Long.*) By Section 6 of The Locomotives on Highways Act, 1896, the Local Government Board are empowered to make regulations with respect to the use of these vehicles on highways, and their construction and the conditions under which they may be used; and by an Order, dated 9th November, 1896, the following regulations were made as regards the width of the tyres:—If the weight of the vehicle unladen is more than 15 cwt., and does not exceed 1 ton, the width of the tyre is to be not less than 2½ inches; if such weight is more than 1 ton, and does not exceed 2 tons, the width is to be not less than 3 inches; if such weight exceeds 2 tons, the width is to be not less than 4 inches.

Vaccination Prosecutions at Gainsborough.

MR. SEYMOUR ORMSBY-GORE (Lincolnshire, Gainsborough): To ask the President of the Local Government Board whether the vaccination officers for the Gainsborough Union carry out the orders of the Local Government Board and take proceedings in opposition to the wishes of the guardians; and whether the Local Government Board will uphold the officers in their action, as they are threatened with dismissal or to be called upon to resign by the guardians.

(*Answered by Mr. Walter Long.*) It is the duty of a vaccination officer to take proceedings against defaulters under the Vaccination Acts, and I understand that the vaccination officers of this union have recently taken proceedings of this kind, although the guardians have been opposed to this course. As regards the last part of the Question, the consent of the Local Government Board is necessary before a vaccination officer can be dismissed. I should not be prepared to give that consent where the ground of the proposed dismissal was that the officer had performed his duty in this matter.

Cooper's Hill Engineering College.

SIR SEYMOUR KING (Hull, Central): To ask the Secretary of State for India whether the Government of India will be consulted before any final step is taken in regard to continuing or discontinuing the Royal Indian Engineering College, Cooper's Hill.

(*Answered by Secretary Lord George Hamilton.*) The answer is in the affirmative.

London Education—Election of New Authority.

MR. HERBERT ROBERTSON (Hackney, S.): To ask the Secretary to the Board of Education whether any and what provision has been made in the event of the London Education Bill becoming an Act of Parliament in its present form for avoiding the necessity of a new London School Board being elected at the usual time next autumn and continuing the powers of the present School Board until the Act comes into operation; and, if not, whether any and what steps will be taken for this purpose.

(*Answered by Sir William Anson.*) After the passing of the Act, Schedule II. (10) of the principal Act will apply.

Schools above Ordinary Limits of Accommodation.

SIR JOHN GORST (Cambridge University); To ask the Secretary to the Board of Education whether he will give the places at which the eighteen schools above the ordinary limits of accommodation have been sanctioned; the number of children in each; and the special reason for which sanction was given in each case.

(*Answered by Sir William Anson.*) Of the schools in question two were actually sanctioned and the sites of ten others before the right hon. Member left office. For the remaining six the facts are as follows:—

Name of School.	Numbers.	Reason for sanction.
Acton— Central Road Board School	403 Infants 340 Junior Mixed 340 Senior Mixed	Special local circumstances.
Killybebill— Alltwen Board School	480 Mixed	Special local circumstances.
Leeds— Cowper Street Board School	600 Infants 500 Senior Mixed 420 Junior Mixed	Special local circumstances.
Liverpool— Sherlock Street Board School	451 Infants 380 Girls 390 Boys	Board committed to scheme.
Portsmouth— Reginald Road Board School	440 Infants 390 Girls 390 Boys	Special local circumstances.
Swansea— Hatford Road Board School	408 Infants 400 Boys 400 Girls	Special local consideration.

Delay in Erection of Labourers' Cottages in the Cavan Union.

MR. M'GOVERN (Cavan, W.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland is he aware that dissatisfaction exists owing to the delay in building labourers' cottages in Cavan Union, and that it is over eighteen months since the inquiry was held; and, if so, can he state the cause of the delay, and what is the present state of the scheme.

(*Answered by Mr. Wyndham.*) The inquiry was held, as stated, more than eighteen months ago. The Board issued an Order in confirmation of portion of the council's improvement scheme on the 17th July last, the unopposed portion of which became absolute on the 30th September, whilst the opposed portion was amended and confirmed by the Order in Council of the 4th March. The cause of the delay in carrying the scheme into execution is the failure of the Rural District Council to furnish the Local Government Board, in correct form and detail, with all the documents which are requisite to enable it to appoint an arbitrator to determine the amounts of purchase money to be paid for the lands authorised to be acquired compulsorily. The Board has repeatedly pressed the council to settle this matter, the last occasion on which it addressed the local authority on the subject being the 6th instant. The execution of the authorised scheme is a duty which devolves upon the Rural District Council.

Prosecution for Carts without Owner's Name thereon.

MR. FLYNN (Cork, N): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether the constabulary authorities are aware of the fact that a farmer, Mr. Daniel Buckley, Cloverhill, was summoned at Mallow Petty Sessions, on 29th June last, for neglecting to have his name on a market cart, and fined, together with costs placed on him; and whether, in view of the custom of the police to caution an individual before proceeding with a summons, he will state whether the requirement of marking all carts and vehicles is enforced by the constabulary irrespective of class or position.

(*Answered by Mr. Wyndham.*) The prosecution referred to was one of a number instituted at the same petty sessions for the same breach of the law. The Inspector-General has no reason to believe that the requirements of the law in this respect are not impartially carried out by the police.

Sterilisation of Water for Troops in the Field.

SIR MICHAEL FOSTER (London University): To ask the Secretary of State for War whether the experiments on sterilisation of water for troops in the field, referred to in his answer of 31st July, 1902,† have led to any scheme of sterilisation being put to the test at manœuvres or otherwise; and, if so, with what results.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Brodrick.*) Experimental tests have been made with various forms of heat sterilising apparatus and sterilising filters, and on the results of these further tests are being made in Somaliland, and will be made at the forthcoming manœuvres. The sterilisation of water in standing camps can be arranged, but in the case of moving bodies of troops great difficulty is being experienced in obtaining really satisfactory results.

Soldiers serving Abroad—Cost of Telegrams.

MR. PLATT-HIGGINS (Salford, N.): To ask the Secretary of State for War whether he is aware that expense is incurred by officers and soldiers of the Army serving on foreign stations when cable communication is necessary with their relatives at home, or *vice versâ*, for want of a recognised telegraphic cable code; and, if so, whether arrangements can be made for every commanding officer stationed abroad to have a word registered as his code address, and for such commanding officer to be supplied with a code of the cable company which serves his station, or of a new code prepared expressly, with a view to lessen the cost of private messages to and from officers and soldiers serving abroad.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Brodrick.*) As regards code addresses, a large number of official code addresses are already registered by the Post Office, and I will inquire whether these can be extended in the direction suggested. As regards the messages, it should be remembered that there are several code books, as the Unicode and A B C, of which officers can avail themselves by arrangement with their relatives.

Majors Serving away from their Regiments.

MR. PIRIE (Aberdeen, N.): To ask the Secretary of State for War if he can state the number of majors in cavalry and infantry serving away from their particular regiments, specifying the number serving respectively in provisional regiments and in Staff or other appointments.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Brodrick.*) The number of cavalry majors holding Staff and other appointments away from their regiments is eighteen, and the number of infantry majors is 175. The majors, for whom extra captains are given, serving with provisional regiments are included in the above eighteen.

---

† See (4) *Debates*, cxii., 275.

British and Native Losses in Somaliland.

Mr. PIRIE: To ask the Secretary of State for War can he state the approximate loss of British and native life respectively in Somaliland up to 1st July, 1903, in operations against the Mullah, commencing with the action at Erego; also total cost up to date of Colonel Swaine's and General Manning's operations, and total estimated monthly cost at present.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Brodrick.*) The casualties are as follows:—

	British.		Native.
	Officers.	Other ranks.	All Ranks.
Killed in action or died of wounds	16	2	338
Died of disease	1	4	—
Missing	—	1	1
	17	7	339

The total cost up to date, from the time the War Office took over the conduct of operations, is approximately £450,000, and the present cost may be taken at £50,000 a month; but it is impossible to make a definite estimate until accounts are received from India.

Strength of Army Veterinary Department.

Mr. PIRIE: To ask the Secretary of State for War what is the actual strength of the Army Veterinary Department compared with the establishment.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Brodrick.*) The establishment of officers of the Army Veterinary Department is 169, and the present strength, including three supernumeraries, is 134.

Construction of Suakin-Berber Railway.

Mr. WHITLEY THOMSON (Yorkshire, W.R., Skipton): To ask the Secretary of State for War if, in view of the fact that the material sent out in 1885 for the construction of the Suakin-Berber Railway is now stored in this country, he will consider the advisability of returning this material to Suakin and commencing the construction of this railway forthwith, with a view to providing cheap transit for cotton and other materials to the coast.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Brodrick.*) The hon. Member had been misinformed. All the Suakin-Berber materials have been issued and utilised for other War Department services, the bulk having long since been disposed of in this way.

QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE.

Cost of South African Garrison.

Mr. EDMUND ROBERTSON (Dundee): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War what is the estimated expenditure per week in connection with the forces now maintained in South Africa.

*The SECRETARY of STATE for WAR (Mr. Brodrick, Surrey, Guildford): The total expenditure in connection with the forces now in South Africa may be taken at about £110,000 per week, being about £45,000 per week in excess of the sum which would be incurred if the troops were at home.

Royal Arsenal, Woolwich.

Dr. HUTCHINSON (Sussex, Rye): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether his attention has been directed to the fact that some new buildings at the Royal Arsenal at Woolwich, in which explosives are dealt with, are in such close proximity to the firing ground that the discharge of the guns is a source of danger to the men working in such buildings; and, if so, will he give the name of the official who is responsible for selecting the site of these buildings; and what steps, if any, are being taken to secure the safety of the men who work in them.

*MR. BRODRICK: The question whether the firing of guns at the proof butts is a source of danger to the danger buildings or the men in them is now being carefully considered. Pending the conclusion of the inquiry heavy proof is not fired while men are working in these buildings.

Army Corps.

MR. PIRIE (Aberdeen, N.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War has the 3rd Division of the 1st Army Corps been formed; if so, what is its strength; and, if not, when is it proposed to form it; and can he explain why this is not done before proceeding with the formation of the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Army Corps; is it intended to continue the formation of the 5th and 6th Army Corps; and, if so, will their formation be initiated by the appointment of their commanders and staff.

*MR. BRODRICK: One brigade of the 3rd Division of the 1st Army Corps is already quartered in the Command. Its strength is 3,320. The barracks for the 2nd brigade are not at present available, and the troops are quartered elsewhere in Great Britain. The 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Army Corps which have been formed are far advanced to completion, as shown in the Returns recently laid before Parliament. The formation of the 5th and 6th Corps will not take place till a considerable number of the units are available in the districts affected.

Staff Officers and Regimental Duty.

MR. PIRIE: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War if he will state after what intervals under the Army Regulations an officer on the Staff is required to return to regimental duty; whether this regulation has been disregarded at home; and if so, why, and in how many, and in what cases.

*MR. BRODRICK: Officers are required to rejoin their regiments for a tour of regimental duty on the termination of each staff appointment, but there is no published regulation on the subject. For obvious reasons during the late war compliance with this rule was not always found practicable, but it is now being strictly enforced.

Irish Tailors and War Office Contracts.

MR. LUNDON (Limerick, E.), on behalf of the hon. Member for the St. Patrick Division of Dublin, I beg to ask the Financial Secretary to the War Office whether his attention has been directed to a communication from the Dublin Master Tailors' Association in April last complaining of the new arrangement for sending in estimates; and if so whether in future facilities will be afforded and opportunity given to enable Irish tailors to obtain as formerly a proportion of the orders.

*MR. BRODRICK: The communication in question dealt chiefly with kit for the Imperial Yeomanry, the supply of which does not concern the War Department. As regards the supply to officers on joining the Regular Forces, estimates have been received from Irish firms and the lists containing them will be circulated to officers, but the selection of a tailor is left entirely to the discretion of the officers.

Locomotives for Canada.

MR. REMNANT (Finsbury, Holborn): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether orders have recently been received by a Glasgow firm for locomotives for Canada; and, if so, whether these orders have been secured by this country on account of the Canadian preferential tariff.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES (Mr. J. CHAMBERLAIN, Birmingham, W): I am aware that orders have been recently placed in Glasgow for locomotives for Canada and I am informed by the managing director of the company which obtained the order that they could not have secured it but for the operation of the preferential tariff.

Lord Milner and the Johannesburg Press.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL (Donegal, S.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he is aware that shortly before his visit to Johannesburg the editorial staff of the Johannesburg Leader were dismissed summarily at the request of Lord Milner for attacking his administration in the Transvaal; and, if so, will he state why did the High Commissioner of South Africa interfere with the editorial management of a Johannesburg newspaper. This, I may say, is not a "put up" question.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: I have no information on the subject, but I have no doubt that the hon. Member is misinformed as to the action which he attributes to Lord Milner.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL: Will the right hon. Gentleman inquire of Lord Milner—will he "bother him?"

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: No, Sir, I do not think it is necessary.

Colonial Import Duties.

MR. ALFRED DAVIES (Carmarthen Boroughs): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Board of Trade if he will state the amounts received respectively by our colonies from duties on imports from Great Britain and Ireland in the years 1882–1892 and 1902; and also from duties on all imports during those years.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF TRADE (Mr. GERALD BALFOUR, Leeds, Central): The information cannot be given, as the colonial trade returns do not, in the majority of cases, distinguish the amounts of duty collected on imported goods according to the countries from which the imports were received.

MR. ALFRED DAVIES: Will the right hon. Gentleman say when I can put a further Question?

MR. GIBSON BOWLES (Lynn Regis): Is not the information published in the Board of Trade Returns?

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: I think not.

Trade with Tibet.

MR. WEIR (Ross and Cromarty): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether the Government of India contemplate the despatch of a Commissioner to Tibet with a view to arrange for improved trade facilities between the two countries.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA (Lord GEORGE HAMILTON, Middlesex, Ealing): A proposal was made last year by the Chinese Government for the despatch of a Chinese Commissioner to discuss on the spot certain questions relating to the frontier and to trade between Tibet and India. The Government of India contemplate, and are making arrangements for, the despatch of British Commissioners to meet the Chinese Commissioner and a representative of the Dalai Lama of Tibet to discuss the pending questions.

Roads to the Tibetan Frontier.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India if he will state how many miles of road have been surveyed and how many constructed between Darjeeling and the Tibetan frontier.

LORD GEORGE HAMILTON: I have no information that any new roads have been surveyed or constructed between Darjeeling and the Tibetan frontier, but steps have been taken to improve the sections of the existing trade routes nearest to Siliguri.

In answer to a further Question, Lord GEORGE HAMILTON said the trade roads in course of development were east of Darjeeling. He could not say whether arrangements had been made for an extension in the direction of Botham.

Russian Evacuation of Manchuria.

THE MASTER OF ELIBANK (Edinburgh, Midlothian): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs if he will state the date on which Russia undertook to evacuate the second section of Manchuria and the treaty port of Newchwang, and what is being done with the Customs revenue collected at the port.

*THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (Lord CRANBORNE, Rochester): By Article II. of the Russo-Chinese Convention of 8th April, 1902, Russia undertook to evacuate the second section of Manchuria, which includes Newchwang, by 8th April, 1903. As I stated on the 30th April,† we have been informed that the duties collected by the Imperial Maritime Customs at Newchwang are paid into the Russo-Chinese Bank, to the credit of the Chinese Government *minus* the monthly amount required for the support of the Customs Office.

Mecca Pilgrims.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, if he will state how many pilgrims left Egypt for Mecca on the occasion of the last pilgrimage and the last but one; and will he say by what line of steamers they were required to travel.

*LORD CRANBORNE: I am afraid I am not able to give the figures for which the hon. Gentleman asks. But on this subject I would venture to refer him to Lord Cromer's Report on the subject in "Egypt No. 1 (1903)." The pilgrims are required to travel by any line of steamers complying with certain conditions laid down by the Egyptian Government.

MR. WEIR: With the result that the number of pilgrims has been reduced by thousands.

Egypt.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs if he will state whether any negotiations, understandings, or arrangements have recently been entered into with the European Powers in regard to Egypt; and, if so, will he state briefly their character.

*LORD CRANBORNE: The answer is in the negative.

German Commercial Treaty.

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON: I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs why the promised Papers in connection with the denunciation of the Commercial Treaty with Germany have not been presented.

*LORD CRANBORNE: The Papers have already been laid, and will be distributed as soon as possible. The hon. Gentleman will see that they were kept back in order to include a despatch from the German Government, which was received a few days ago, and the reply of His Majesty's Government.

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON: Are the Papers now in the hands of the printers?

*LORD CRANBORNE: Yes, Sir.

Income Tax Collections in Scotland.

*MR. M'CRAE (Edinburgh, E.): I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether, in view of the fact that the amount of income tax, inhabited house duty, and land tax outstanding at 28th February, 1901, for that financial year amounted in England to £14,228,000, and in Scotland to £220,375, representing 46 per cent. and 7 per cent. respectively of the total charge, the time and method of collection of income tax will be considered by the Committee to whom the matter of income tax has been remitted; and whether, pending the result of inquiry England and Scotland will be put in a position of equality as to the time and method of collection of income tax.

*THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER (Mr. RITCHIE, Croydon): I cannot admit that there is any inequality, nor do I think that Scotland has any grievance, any more than the persons in England who pay taxes punctually have a grievance as compared with those who pay unpunctually.

*MR. M'CRAE: May I point out that although the law is the same, it is enforced quite differently in the two countries?

*MR. RITCHIE: It would be highly dangerous for me to stop the zealous manner in which those in Scotland responsible for the collection of the Revenue act.

Rebate on Glucose.

MR. FLOWER (Bradford, W.): I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether, in view of the fact that under the Finance Act, 1903, Section 1 (4), a rebate of 10s. a ton has been allowed on glucose imported into this country and in stock on 30th June ultimo, and that a similar allowance has been refused by His Majesty's Customs to the manufacturers of glucose in this country, the reason given being that the article in question is not in the same condition as the raw material from which it is manufactured, and which had paid duty having undergone transformation, although malt, the analogous transformation product of barley, has received such allowance, he will take steps to place British manufacturers on the same footing as foreigners.

---

† See (4) *Debates*, cxxi., 952.

*Mr. RITCHIE: Malt is one of the articles specifically dutied under Section 1 of the Finance Act, 1902, therefore rebate of duty on a duty-paid stock of it could not be refused under Section 1 (4) (a) of the Finance Act, 1903. Apart, however, from this fact, I cannot agree that the malting of barley involves a chemical transformation analogous to that which takes place when starch is converted into glucose. Importers of glucose might in any case, by warehousing it in bond, have avoided payment of the duty. On the other hand, makers of glucose in this country had more than two months notice given them to enable them to dispose of their stocks of glucose made from dutiable materials before the duty ceased. The stock of home-made glucose I am informed is very small, so that a remission of the duty does not involve any considerable sum of money, but the principle is highly important, and I do not consider that I should be justified in extending the concession already made. I would again point out that the exceptional treatment given to grain was with the view of preventing disturbance in the grain trade and a consequent rise in prices. The circumstances in connection with the manufacture of glucose are in no way comparable.

Mr. JAMES LOWTHER (Kent, Thanet): Do I understand the right hon. Gentleman to say that it is just that the home producers who pay rates and taxes should be treated less favourably than foreigners?

*Mr. RITCHIE: I have explained that imports of glucose would, in any case, have escaped the duty. As a matter of consideration to the home makers we gave them two months in which to get rid of their stocks, and I am sure the House will consider that this was ample.

Mr. FLOWER: I shall draw attention to this matter at the earliest opportunity.

Telegraphic Delays in Scotland.

Sir JOHN LENG (Dundee): I beg to ask the Postmaster-General if he will state where the breakages occurred during the gale in Scotland on Monday, 6th July, in the telegraphic communication, and for what length of time messages were delayed in transmission before communication was renewed.

The POSTMASTER-GENERAL (Mr. Austen Chamberlain, Worcestershire, E.): On the 6th instant a large tree was blown across the telegraph line between Chester and Eccleston, breaking twenty-two wires, and a similar accident happened to the line between Lichfield and Stafford. There were minor interruptions all along the lines caused by branches of trees in full foliage being blown across the wires. The maximum delay to messages was at about 2.30 p.m.: it was then 130 minutes to Dundee, 110 minutes to Glasgow and Aberdeen, and 105 minutes to Edinburgh. By 6.30 the delay was reduced to half-an-hour.

Ecclesiastical Commissioners.

Mr. BRYNMOR JONES (Swansea District): I beg to ask the hon. Member for West Salford if he will state how many meetings of the Ecclesiastical Commissioners were held in the years 1901 and 1902; what was the number of attendances at these meetings of each Church Estates Commissioner; was the business of the Commission delayed on any and how many occasions owing to the fact that two Church Estates Commissioners were not present.

The PARLIAMENTARY CHARITY COMMISSIONER (Mr. Lees Knowles, Salford, W.): The numbers of meetings of the Ecclesiastical Commissioners were in 1901 twenty-one, and in 1902 twenty-two; of the Estates Committee in 1901 thirty-five, and in 1902 thirty-four. The attendances of the Church Estates Commissioners at these meetings were: of the First Church Estates Commissioner in 1901 fifty-three, and in 1902 fifty-four; of the Second Church Estates Commissioner in 1901 forty-one, and in 1902 fifty; of the Church Estates Commissioner appointed by the Archbishop of Canterbury in 1901 fifty-four, and in 1902 fifty-five. There has not during the period in question been any failure of a meeting by reason of the non-attendance of the minimum number of two Church Estates Commissioners.

Scottish County Council Clerks as Election Agents.

MR. PIRIE: I beg to ask the Lord Advocate whether the Government will consider the advisability of recommending the County Councils to instruct their clerks, who are salaried by ratepayers holding various political opinions, to abstain from interference in politics, whether in a paid capacity as election agent, or not.

*THE LORD ADVOCATE (Mr. A. GRAHAM MURRAY, Buteshire): I am unable to add anything to the reply given to the hon. Member on the 9th instant.†

MR. PIRIE: If the practice is not discontinued I shall draw attention to it next year.

Contempt of Court in Ireland.

MR. DILLON (Mayo, E.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been drawn to the fact that a man named John McElligott has been lying in Dundalk Gaol for two years for contempt of Court; whether he can state what is the nature of the charge against him; and whether he can take any steps with a view to securing the release of McElligott.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND (Mr. WYNDHAM, Dover): The committal was for contempt on a writ of attachment issued by the Master of the Rolls. The Executive has no power to intervene in the matter. The Master of the Rolls has on several occasions informed the prisoner that a verbal undertaking to abstain from repeating his contempt will be followed by immediate release.

MR. DILLON: Suppose evidence is laid before the right hon. Gentleman that this prisoner is in danger of losing his mind what steps can be taken to procure his release from prison?

MR. WYNDHAM was understood to say that the medical officers would have to report on the case to the Prisons Board.

Munster and the Congested Districts Board.

MR. GILHOOLY (Cork Co., W.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether a vacancy exists on the Congested Districts Board; and, if so, seeing that the Province of Munster is unrepresented on it, will he consider the advisability of giving it representation.

MR. WYNDHAM: There is no vacancy at present.

MR. GILHOOLY: When a vacancy arises will the claims of Munster be considered?

MR. WYNDHAM: The whole facts will be considered.

MR. FLAVIN (Kerry, N.): Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that numerous public boards in the south of Ireland have passed resolutions calling attention to the fact that Munster is not represented on the Board?

MR. WYNDHAM: Kerry has very effective representation in this House.

MR. FLAVIN: And I hope to make it more effective.

Small Farmers Dwellings Loans.

MR. POWER (Waterford, E.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether steps will be taken to enable small farmers in Ireland to obtain loans at 3½ per cent., principal and interest repayable in fifty years, for the erection of dwellings on their holdings.

---

† See page 156.

MR. WYNDHAM: Legislation would be necessary to vary the conditions under which these loans are at present made. If legislation should hereafter be proposed dealing with the question of Land Improvement Loans the suggestion of the hon. Member will be considered.

MR. T. W. RUSSELL (Tyrone, S.): Is not 6 per cent. now charged?

MR. WYNDHAM: 6½ per cent., principal and interest.

Irish Trials—Changes of Venue.

MR. P. J. O'BRIEN (Tipperary, N.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, on what grounds the executive applied for a special jury and change of venue under the Criminal Law and Procedure Act in the case against Stapleton, Delany, and Carroll, of Borrisaleigh.

MR. WYNDHAM: The Attorney-General applied for a change of venue and for a special jury, on the ground that a more fair and impartial trial could thus be obtained. The accused did not make any objection to the change of venue as they were entitled by law to do.

MR. DILLON: Was any notice of the motion given to the accused? In view of what the right hon. Gentleman has said as to the desire of the Government to get a fair and impartial jury, is it proposed to pack a jury in Cork?

MR. P. J. O'BRIEN: Does the right hon. Gentleman say a fair jury could not have been obtained at the Nenagh Assizes?

MR. WYNDHAM: I must ask for notice of further Questions.

Irish Loan Fund Societies.

MR. DILLON: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether, in view of the fact that the Bill introduced and passed by the Government in 1900, dealing with the Loan Fund system, contained no provision tending to secure more regular and business-like attention to their duties on the part of the treasurers and trustees of the Loan Fund Societies, he will say whether the Bill now drafted by the Attorney-General contains any such provisions.

MR. WYNDHAM: It is not proposed at this period of the session to introduce a Bill providing for a reform and reconstruction of the Loan Fund system, desirable as that may be, but only to remedy an error into which Loan Fund Societies have fallen through a mistaken view of the existing law.

MR. DILLON: Can the right hon. Gentleman say why in the last few years no effort has been made to introduce a Bill to carry out the continuously made recommendations of the Local Loan Board?

MR. WYNDHAM: The hon. Member's own experience of the business of this House will, I think, supply an answer to the Question.

Belmullet and Mallaranny Steamers.

MR. O'KELLY (Mayo, N.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland if he will state what is the nature of the inquiries he is making in connection with the steamer service between Belmullet and Mallaranny; and whether there is any intention to drop the scheme.

MR. WYNDHAM: I am engaged in negotiations with the Midland and Great Western Railway Company in this matter, and no conclusion has yet been arrived at.

[There were several supplementary Questions put to this but they were quite inaudible in the Press gallery.]

Irish Gun Licences.

MR. THOMAS O'DONNELL (Kerry, W.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he will explain why Pat Cournane, Castlemaine, County Kerry, has been refused a licence for a gun by the resident magistrate; and will he take steps to secure that resident magistrates shall not withhold gun licences without reasonable cause.

MR. WYNDHAM: On the 7th May I explained to the hon. Member the reasons which induced the resident magistrate to withhold a gun licence in this instance.† The suggestion at the end of the Question indicates the existing practice. Of 6,708 applications for arms licences throughout Ireland in 1902, only 619, or 9 per cent., were refused.

Nenagh Cottage Scheme.

MR. P. J. O'BRIEN: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware of the case of James Quigley, labourer, for whom the Nenagh Rural District Council applied for a cottage and an acre of ground in their Provisional Order for 1902; whether he is aware that the proposed site was thrown out by the Local Government Inspector at the inquiry held in April of that year on the ground of want of water; that, subsequently, the labourer having got permission from a neighbouring farmer to make use of his water supply, the Council again brought the matter under the consideration of the Local Government Board urging Quigley's claim, his house having been condemned as unsanitary and unfit for human habitation; that the Board refused to make the order, alleging that the owner of the land might have other grounds of objection though none was raised by him on the inquiry except the absence of water; and, if so, will he, under the circumstances, have Quigley's case reconsidered.

MR. WYNDHAM: The facts are as stated in the first part of the Question. The Local Government Board informed the District Council that the case would be sanctioned provided the written consents were obtained from the owner and occupier of the adjoining holding, to the water supply on which it was stated Quigley would have access. These consents have not yet been furnished.

MR. P. J. O'BRIEN: And if the consent is obtained will the matter be reconsidered?

MR. WYNDHAM: Yes, I understand that all difficulty will then have disappeared.

Grazing Farms in Congested Districts.

MR. O'DOWD (Sligo, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether there is any provision in the Irish Land Bill, as amended, which proposes to deal with the question of those grazing farms situated in congested districts counties which within the last two years have been purchased by money advanced by the Land Commission to non-residents of these districts, who use them exclusively for grazing purposes; and, if so, what is the nature of such provision.

MR. WYNDHAM: The reply to this Question is in the negative. It is not proposed to disturb past transactions entered into according to law.

Public Audits in Ireland.

MR. LUNDON: On behalf of the hon. Member for the St. Patrick Division of Dublin, I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, whether, seeing that a permanent audit office staff is established at Devonport, any public inconvenience results therefrom in the way of exercising direct supervision of the work performed, and of personal conference between the Comptroller and Auditor-General and the officers engaged upon it; and, if not, seeing that Devonport is nearly as far from London as Dublin, whether he is prepared to make arrangements to have a similar permanent audit office staff in Dublin.

*THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY (MR. ELLIOT, Durham): Public inconvenience undoubtedly results from the impossibility of exercising direct supervision of the audit work performed at Devonport and other dockyards, and from the absence of opportunity for personal conference between the Comptroller and Auditor-General and the officers engaged upon it. But it would be still more inconvenient to the public service to remove the books from the dockyards to London.

MR. LUNDON: On behalf of the hon. Member for the St. Patrick Division of Dublin, I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether, seeing that less than £500 of the Exchequer and Audit Vote is expended in Ireland, and that it is found to be in the interests of the public service to have an audit office staff permanently employed at Devonport Dockyard, a long distance away from headquarters in London, he is prepared to make arrangements to have a proportionate share of this Vote spent in Ireland by establishing a similar permanent audit office staff in Dublin.

---

† See (4) *Debates*, cxxii., 19.

*Mr. ELLIOT: For the reasons stated in reply to similar Questions on the 29th June last,† it is not proposed to establish a permanent audit staff in Dublin.

Irish Savings Bank Accounts.

Mr. LUNDON: On behalf of the hon. Member for the St. Patrick Division of Dublin, I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether he would state in what way it is more economical and convenient to keep the Irish Savings Bank accounts in London, considering the time it takes for Irish depositors to communicate with London and receive replies therefrom.

Mr. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: It is not possible to go fully into this matter in reply to a Question; but I think it must be obvious that, by keeping all the Savings Bank accounts of the United Kingdom at one central institution, the administration is made more convenient and economical. The delay to the business of Irish depositors involved in communication with London as compared with Dublin is very slight.

County Cork Postal Arrangements.

Captain DONELAN (Cork, Co. E.): On behalf of the hon. Member for S. E. Cork, I beg to ask the Postmaster-General whether he will establish a daily service for the delivery of letters in the townlands of Dromovane, Scraghan, Killowen and Tullyglass, Enniskeane, R.S.O., county Cork, as the present system causes much inconvenience, letters being delivered only on three days in the week.

Mr. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: I will make inquiry on the subject, and communicate the result to the hon Member as soon as possible.

New Naval Base—Forth and Clyde Canal.

Mr. PIRIE: I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether, in view of the importance of securing a commercial and strategic waterway connecting the West of Scotland with the new naval base of the Firth of Forth, and of the fact that it is not at present intended to devote naval funds for that purpose, he will consider the desirability of examining the possibility of enlarging the existing Forth and Clyde Canal on the lines of the recently executed Kiel Canal, and of publishing a report as to the cost and time required for the execution of such a work.

The PRIME MINISTER and FIRST LORD of the TREASURY (Mr. A. J. Balfour, Manchester, E.): I ought not to pretend to the hon. Gentleman or to the House that it is within the scope of the Admiralty plan, as at present arranged, to devote public money to such a purpose as the hon. Member suggests.

Mr. EUGENE WASON (Clackmannan and Kinross): Will the right hon. Gentleman be prepared to guarantee interest at $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. if the money was raised privately?

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: That is a Question which should be addressed to my long-suffering colleague the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

Mr. PIRIE: I think the right hon. Gentleman misunderstood my Question.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: The hon. Gentleman distinctly advocates this expenditure on naval strategical grounds.

Mr. PIRIE: And commercial.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: But mainly on Admiralty grounds, and the cost would therefore have to be defrayed out of Navy Votes.

---

† See (4) *Debates*, cxxiv., 797.

The Fiscal Inquiry.

Mr. JOHN ELLIS (Nottinghamshire, Rushcliffe): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether any instructions have been or are intended to be given by the Government to certain of the public Departments with respect to information to be supplied by them in connection with the inquiry suggested into fiscal policy, and, in that case, to what Departments have such instructions been given; and will he lay their terms before the House.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: The public Departments chiefly concerned are, as the hon. Gentleman is no doubt aware, the Board of Trade and the Customs and Inland Revenue. I do not propose to lay on the Table of the House the details of any instructions which may be given to these departments.

Mr. JOHN ELLIS: May I ask whether any instructions have already been given?

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: Some instructions have been given and no doubt some instructions remain to be given.

Mr. SWIFT MACNEILL: Will the clerks get paid for the extra labour involved?

[No answer was returned.]

*Mr. SOAMES (Norfolk, S.): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether the inquiry into the fiscal proposals of the Colonial Secretary has begun; whether it is expected that it will be concluded before the end of the present session; whether the result of the inquiry will be communicated to Parliament or to the country; and, if so, by what means.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: As the hon. Member is well aware, the inquiry has begun; but I do not propose to suggest any answer to the second and third Questions.

Mr. BLACK (Banffshire): I wish to ask whether the Government has come to a decision that the only effective method of causing Germany to restore Canada to the most-favoured-nation treatment is by imposing a retaliatory duty in this country.

Mr. A J. BALFOUR: No, Sir. I have no Government decision to announce on the subject.

Mr. BLACK: Do the Government then repudiate the Colonial Secretary?

[No reply was made.]

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.

*Sir CHARLES DILKE (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean): Is there any change in the arrangements for Thursday?

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: The Army Estimates will be taken on Thursday as the first Order.

Mr SWIFT MACNEILL: Does that mean the salary of the Secretary for War, as I am anxious to discuss him?

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: Yes.

Mr. GIBSON BOWLES: May I ask whether the Sugar Convention Bill and the South African Loan Bill will be taken this week?

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: I see no probability, or the least possibility, of their being taken this week.

Mr. MARKHAM (Nottinghamshire, Mansfield): Will the Colonial Secretary's Vote be put down this week?

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: No, Sir.

Mr. BUCHANAN (Perthshire, E.): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury when the Military Works Bill will be taken.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: I think it very unlikely that the Bill will come on in the present week, but I must not be precluded taking it if opportunity unexpectedly offers.

Mr. WEIR: I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury, seeing that on the last two days when Scottish Votes were placed on the Paper only eight minutes before midnight were available for their discussion on one day and only six minutes before midnight on the other, will he state when an opportunity will be afforded for discussing the Vote for the Secretary for Scotland and other Scottish Votes.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: If time allows, I shall be glad to put down the Vote in which the hon. Member is interested, but I cannot absolutely promise to find time for the discussion.

PORT OF LONDON BILL.

Reported, with Amendments, from the Joint Committee, with Minutes of Evidence. Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. Bill, as amended in the Joint Committee, re-committed to a Committee of the Whole House for Wednesday, and to be printed. [Bill 274.]

PREVENTION OF CORRUPTION BILL.
[LORDS.]

Reported, with Amendments, from the Standing Committee on Law, etc. Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 253]; Minutes of the Proceedings of the Standing Committee to be printed [No. 253]. Bill, as amended (in the Standing Committee), to be considered To-morrow, and to be printed. [Bill 275.]

POOR PRISONERS' DEFENCE BILL.

Special Report from the Select Committee brought up and read. Special Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 254.]

LICENSING ACTS (SCOTLAND) CONSOLIDATION AND AMENDMENT BILL.

As amended (by the Standing Committee), considered.

Clause (Forfeiture of Excise licences in certain cases—)

"In Part III., to move the following clause—'Every holder of an Excise licence for the sale of excisable liquor obtained without the production of a certificate from a licensing Court, who shall be guilty of an offence against the provisions of the sections of this Act, whereof the marginal notes are respectively "Distribution of liquor from vans," "Penalties for selling without certificate," "Penalty for selling spirits or trafficking in excisable liquors without certificate," and "Penalty for hawking excisable liquors," or any of such provisions, shall, on conviction thereof, forfeit such licence, and shall be incapable of obtaining or holding such licence for a period of two years from the date of such conviction, and it shall be the duty of the clerk of the convicting Court to transmit forthwith to the Commissioners of Inland Revenue the particulars of any such conviction.' "—(*The Lord Advocate.*)

Brought up, and read the first time.

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the clause be read a second time."

MR. CROMBIE (Kincardineshire) said the subject matter of this clause had been dealt with in another clause in the Bill, which left it in the hands of the magistrates, so that he knew there were some objections, and he had consequently put down a clause placing the question in the hands of the sheriffs. He would like to draw the attention of the House to the evils which it was desired to deal with. He had in his hand a letter from the Chief Constable of Dumbarton describing the evils which existed, largely in consequence of a trade that was established solely for the convenience of colonies of navvies engaged in railway construction. The Lord Advocate had described the evil as a small one, but it was likely to grow. So long as it was possible to do so by the establishment of bogus clubs, persons avoided compliance with the ordinary licensing laws of the country. Happily, the Bill would destroy that evil, and these persons were now being driven to seek their undesirable objects by other means, one of which was the utilisation of these Excise licences. Ordinary penalties were not in his opinion sufficient for offences in these cases, and he would therefore like to see the power of forfeiture conferred. That would be one of the most effective means of putting down shebeening, and if the clause were read a second time he would move the insertion of words to secure that object.

Question put and agreed to.

MR. CROMBIE said he would now move the Amendment he had indicated, and he might explain that he had taken the words from the certificate in the schedule of the Bill which was enforced on holders of licences who came before the magistrates.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In line 8, after the word 'provisions' to insert the words 'or of knowingly permitting any breach of the peace, or riotous or disorderly conduct within his premises, or selling or supplying excisable liquors to persons who are in a state of intoxication, or selling or giving out the same on Sunday.'"—(*Mr. Crombie.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted in the Bill."

THE LORD ADVOCATE (Mr. A. GRAHAM MURRAY, Buteshire): I am perfectly willing to insert the words, although I do not believe they are necessary.

Question put, and agreed to.

Clause, as amended, added to the Bill.

Clause (Police to report offences)—

"In Part VI., insert the following clause:—'A chief officer of police shall, without undue delay, report to the procurator fiscal or other party by this Act directed to prosecute offenders all offences committed against this Act coming to his knowledge, and shall at all times use the means within his control for the detection and, when necessary, the apprehension of all offenders.'"—(*The Lord Advocate.*)

Brought up, and read the first and second time and added to the Bill.

MR. CROMBIE, in moving the Second Reading of the new clause which stood in his name, explained that the result of the divisions upon it in Committee was a tie, and but for the absence of one hon. Member who had promised to support it, it would have been carried. It could not, therefore, be suggested that he was pursuing an obstructive policy in this matter. This was one of the few points which both the Majority and Minority Report of the Royal Commission recommended. No doubt there was great difficulty in regulating the opening and closing of licensed premises by reason of the existence of grocers' licences. They could not force a grocer to close his whole shop without inflicting great injustice upon him by preventing him selling provisions, while, if only one department of his premises was closed, the police had no guarantee that the law was strictly observed. He hoped that the Lord Advocate would accept the clause.

Clause (No new grocers' licences to be granted)—

"After the passing of this Act it shall not be lawful for the licensing authority of any burgh or county or district of a county to grant any new certificate for the sale of spirits, wine, beer, or other excisable liquors to any grocer or provision dealer, except in premises exclusively used for the sale of excisable liquors."—(*Mr. Crombie.*)

Brought up, and read the first time.

Motion made and Question proposed, That the clause be read a second time."

MR. A. GRAHAM MURRAY said he did not for one moment complain of the action of the hon. Member in bringing this clause forward again, but he could only repeat the arguments which he used successfully—though with a very narrow majority in his favour—before the Committee. There might, of course, be something to be said on the question of the entire separation of the trades, but it should, in his opinion, be brought about by a general enactment. This clause would create a monopoly in favour of existing grocers' licences which would grow in value year by year. It would be a sort of tontine in favour of present licensed grocers, and future licence-holders would be penalised by having to compete in the trade under entirely different conditions. He doubted if public opinion was yet ripe for such a change in the law.

SIR ROBERT REID (Dumfries Burghs) said the right hon. Gentleman had practically admitted that an evil existed by reason of premises not being exclusively used for the sale of excisable liquors—

MR. A. GRAHAM MURRAY: I admitted the fact, but I do not admit it is an evil.

SIR ROBERT REID said the right hon. Gentleman suggested there was a good deal to be said in favour of separation, and told them the subject was one which should be dealt with in a general enactment, although he was not prepared himself to take it in hand. Undoubtedly there was an evil which ought to be remedied. He dissented from the view that the acceptance of the Amendment would establish a sort of tontine in favour of existing licence-holders. It would not prevent the grant of fresh licences, however; it would only provide that new licences should be granted under circumstances in which the trade could be more satisfactorily carried on. It was to his mind a great pity—in view of the fact that both the Minority and Majority Report were in favour of this proposal—that this opportunity of dealing with it should not be taken advantage of, seeing that no single vested interest would be prejudicially affected.

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 64; Noes, 102. (Division List No. 142.)

AYES.

Asher, Alexander
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Beaumont, Wentworth C. B.
Black, Alexander William
Bryce, Right Hon. James
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Burt, Thomas
Buxton, Sydney Charles
Caldwell, James
Cameron, Robert
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Corbett, A. Cameron (*Glasg.*)
Craig, Robert Hunter (*Lanark*
Crooks, William
Davies, Alfred (*Carmarthen*)
Davies, M. Vaughan- (*Cardig'n*
Douglas, Charles M. (*Lanark*)
Elibank, Master of
Ellis, John Edward
Evans, Sir F. H. (*Maidstone*)
Ferguson, R. C. Munro (*Leith*)
Foster, Sir Walter (*Derby Co.*
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Furness, Sir Christopher
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Chas. Seale-
Hemphill, Rt. Hon. Chas. H
Hobhouse, C. E. H. (*Bristl, E.*
Hutchinson, Dr. Chas. Fredk.
Jones, David B. (*Swansea*)
Jones, Wm. (*Carnarvonshire*)
Langley, Batty
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (*Cornwall*)
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leese, Sir Jos. F. (*Accrington*)
Leigh, Sir Joseph
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, David
Lough, Thomas
M'Crae, George
M'Kenna, Reginald
M'Laren, Sir Charles Benj.
Markham, Arthur Basil
Morgan, J. Lloyd (*Carmarthen*
Pirie, Duncan V.
Reid, Sir R. Threshie (*Dumfries.*
Robertson, Edmund (*Dundee*)
Russell, T. W.
Sinclair, John (*Forfarshire*)
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Spear, John Ward
Stewart, Sir Mark J. M'Taggart
Sullivan, Donal
Thomas, Sir A. (*Glamorgan, E.*
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Ure, Alexander
Wallace, Robert
Walton, Joseph (*Barnsley*)
Warner, Thos. Courtenay T.
Wason, E. (*Clackmannan*)
Wason, J. Cathcart (*Orkney*)
Weir, James Galloway
White, Luke, (*York, E. R.*)
Whitley, J. H. (*Halifax*)

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Crombie and Sir John Leng.

NOES.

Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Anstruther, H. T.
Arrol, Sir William
Atkinson, Right Hon. John
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J. (*Man'r*)
Balfour, Rt. Hn. G. W. (*Leeds*
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bowles, T. Gibson (*Lynn Regis*)
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Campbell, Rt. Hn J A (*Glasg.*
Cavendish, V. C. W. (*Derbyshire*
Chamberlain, Rt Hon J (*Birm*
Chamberlain, Rt. Hn J. A (*Worc*
Chapman, Edward
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Clive, Captain Percy A.
Cochrane, Hn. Thos. H. A. E.
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Crossley, Sir Savile
Dalkeith, Earl of
Denny, Colonel
Devlin, Joseph (*Kilkenny, N.*)
Dickson, Charles Scott
Digby, John K. D. Wingfield-
Dimsdale, Rt. Hon. Sir Jos. C.
Dixon-Hartland, Sir F. Dixon
Doogan, P. C.
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers
Dyke, Rt. Hon. Sir Wm. Hart
Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas
Fergusson, Rt Hn. Sir J. (*Man'r*
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Flower, Ernest
Forster, Henry William
Foster, Philip S. (*Warwick, S. W*
Galloway, William Johnson
Gibbs, Hn A. G. H (*City of Lond*
Gibbs, Hn. Vicary (*St. Albans*
Gordon, Maj Evans (*Tr. H'ml'ts*
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Gretton, John
Halsey, Rt. Hon. Thomas F.
Hamilton, Rt Hn Lord G (*Midd'x*
Heath, James (*Staffords. N. W.*
Heaton, John Henniker
Helder, Augustus
Hoult, Joseph
Jeffreys, Rt. Hn. Arthur Fred
Johnstone, Heywood
Kerr, John
Law, Andrew Bonar (*Glasgow*
Lawson, John Grant (*Yorks. N R*
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leveson-Gower, Frederick N. S.
Long, Col. Chas. W. (*Evesham*
Long, Rt. Hn. W. (*Bristol, S.*
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lucas, Col. Francis (*Lowestoft*
Lundon, W.
M'Iver, Sir Lewis (*Edinburgh W*
M'Killop, James (*Stirlingshire*
M'Killop, W. (*Sligo, North*)
Malcolm, Ian
Mount, William Arthur
Murray, Rt Hn A. Graham (*Bute*
O'Brien, P. J. (*Tipperary, N.*)
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, Conor (*Mayo, N.*)
Pease, H. Pike (*Darlington*)
Pemberton, John S. G.
Percy, Earl
Plummer, Walter R.
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Purvis, Robert
Randles, John S.
Redmond, Jn. E. (*Waterford*)

Remnant, Jas. Farquharson
Ritchie, Rt. Hn. C. Thomson
Roberts, Samuel (*Sheffield*)
Round, Rt. Hon. James
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford-
Sadler, Col. Samuel Alexander
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Shaw-Stewart, M. H. (*Renfrew*)
Simeon, Sir Barrington
Smith, Jas. Parker (*Lanarks.*)
Stirling-Maxwell, Sir John M.
Talbot, Lord E. (*Chichester*)
Taylor, Austin (*East Toxteth*)
Valentia, Viscount
Walrond, Rt. Hn. Sir William H.
Wanklyn, James Leslie
Wilson, John (*Falkirk*)
Wilson John (*Glasgow*).
Worsley-Taylor, Hry. Wilson
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Young, Samuel

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Mr. Fellowes.

*MR. MUNRO FERGUSON (Leith Burghs) said he should not have moved this new clause if the Bill stood in the form in which it left the Committee upstairs. Some important Amendments had been made in it, and if the Lord Advocate persisted they would be obliged to press this point home. He should have very much preferred that the Bill should have remained as it stood and that the Lord Advocate should have kept to it. This was a clause to check solicitation. The Lord Advocate claimed a right that the justices should express their own opinion for and against this or that application for a licence. Courts dealing with this question should be left alone, and if they were not left alone they could no longer be Courts. He did not think by his proposal that he was taking an exaggerated view of this matter because it was an acknowledged grievance all over the country. He begged to move.

Clause (Canvassing)—

"Any person canvassing any member of the licensing authority for a licence shall, on summary conviction before the sheriff, be liable to a penalty not exceeding £100."—(*Mr. Munro Ferguson.*)

Brought up and read the first time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the clause be read a second time."

MR. A. GRAHAM MURRAY said he objected to this clause because it was practically unworkable. He thought the law officers of the Crown sitting near him would agree that they would be placed in a terrible quandary if they had to institute prosecutions under a clause like this.

SIR ROBERT REID said he was very sorry that the Lord Advocate had refused to accept this proposal. The right hon. Gentleman had used upon this point the authority of the Minority and Majority Report, but those Reports did not say that this was a bad clause, and they only expressed the opinion that it might not be workable. They gave no authority on the question of principle, and all they did was to express an opinion as to the practicability of the clause being carried out. He suggested that the difficulty might be met by inserting the word "soliciting" instead of "canvassing." There could be no difficulty if they made it read "any person soliciting any member of a licensing authority for a licence." Common-sense told them that if they used an apt word like "soliciting" there could be no doubt about it. It did not signify whether they regarded the authority of the magistrates as being magisterial or judicial. The fact was that they ought to act impartially and in the interests of the public. To tell him that the scandal of perpetual solicitation on the part of those who wanted licences or on the part of those who wanted to oppose them could not be stopped was really taking a little liberty with one's intelligence. He submitted that it was perfectly easy to do this, and he hoped the Lord Advocate would agree to omit the word "canvassing" and insert "soliciting."

MR. GALLOWAY (Manchester, S.W.) said the hon. and learned Member for Dumfries Burghs had stated that it was a scandal that persons should canvas any member of the licensing authority for a licence. The logic of the hon. and learned Gentleman's argument was that if it was wrong to solicit for a licence it was equally wrong to solicit against it. That contention was admitted by the hon. and learned Gentleman, but the hon. Member who moved the clause did not admit it, nor did he think of it when he moved the clause.

*MR. MUNRO FERGUSON said he accepted that in Grand Committee.

MR. GALLOWAY said that made the case all the worse. If the hon. Member accepted that contention in Grand Committee why did he not put it in the clause on the Notice Paper of the House of Commons? He himself should be very glad to see the suggestion of the hon. and learned Gentleman carried out so that it should be made equally punishable for people to canvass either for or against a licence.

SIR J. FERGUSSON (Manchester, N.E.) said that in times past he would have had more sympathy with the Amendment proposed by the hon. Member for Leith. The practice of canvassing had been a very great nuisance. The case would now be considerably altered when the licensing duties were entrusted to a select body composed equally of members of the County Council and of county magistrates. If that body were well selected, and if they felt their personal responsibility, the House might feel more confidence that they would not be open to those private influences to which, in too numerous instances, the county magistrates had been open hitherto. While sympathising very much with the grounds of the proposal he did not think the clause necessary in view of the altered position of affairs.

SIR MARK STEWART (Kirkcudbrightshire) said he could not forget that this was a Scotch Bill, and that it had nothing to do with the law in England. It might be said if one measure was passed for Scotland, English Members migh feel that some day similar legislation would be proposed for England. He was anxious to see some words inserted which would prevent solicitation. It was notorious that a great deal was done in that way—he did not say with what effect on the magistrates. He was perfectly satisfied, from reports which had reached him, that there were persons unhappily to be found in Scotland who would offer inducements to magistrates one way or another, and he therefore appealed to his right hon. friend the Lord Advocate to insert words which would prevent the offering of these inducements. It was a very reasonable suggestion and he was satisfied that it had the support of a large majority of Scotch Members.

SIR JOHN LENG (Dundee) said the right hon. Gentleman the Member for North-East Manchester seemed to think that because the members of the Court were to be reduced the evil which had hitherto existed would not be continued, or, at all events, would not be so badly felt. He feared it would only concentrate on the lesser number what both burgh magistrates and county magistrates had hitherto felt to be an intolerable nuisance. For a week or a fortnight before the Courts were held those who desired to have licences, and those who were afraid of having their licences withdrawn from them, spent their days and nights in canvassing the burgh and county magistrates. It was because this clause was for the suppression of an intolerable nuisance that he would give it his hearty support.

MR. GROVES (Salford, S.) said the practice of canvassing had been for years an unmitigated and intolerable nuisance. He knew a case where the magistrates had been whipped up to oppose the confirmation of a licence. One of the magistrates had expressed his shame and sorrow to him that he allowed himself to be pledged before the case came before the Court, and added that if he had gone into Court unpledged against the licence he would certainly, on the merits, have voted for the confirmation of the licence. In framing new licensing laws it was very necessary that this long continued evil should be stopped once and for all.

MR. WALLACE (Perth) said it did seem a remarkable thing if, when both sides of the House were practically at one on this matter, they could not frame a clause to give effect to what they desired. None of them were wedded to the particular words of the Amendment before the House. They did not want a one-sided clause forbidding canvassing for, and allowing it against, licences. His hon. friend was willing to accept such an alteration of the clause as the Lord Advocate might desire to cover both cases, and it would be an extraordinary thing if the House were to reject this clause because of the form in which it stood. He suggested that the Lord Advocate should insert words to carry out the intention which had been indicated by hon. Members. The practice of canvassing was a growing evil and a scandal in Scotland, and now that the licensing bodies were to be more restricted in number than before it would be more easy to canvass.

SIR LEWIS M'IVER (Edinburgh, W.) said this growing evil was one which the Scotch people deprecated, and it ought not to be beyond the power of the House to frame a clause to deal with it. He would gladly leave the Lord Advocate to find words for the purpose. It was not only in the matter of licences, but in other things, that this practice of what he could only call dishonest canvassing and soliciting went on, and every method that could be introduced to suppress the growing impurity ought to be welcomed by such an Assembly as this.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN (Stirling Burghs) said the Lord Advocate must have been impressed by the unanimity on this subject not only of Scotch, but of English, Members who had spoken. It seemed to be a matter which could be easily adjusted by a little alteration of the words of the proposed clause. He suggested that it should be altered to read in this way. "Any person soliciting any member of the licensing authority in respect of any application for a licence shall, on summary conviction before the sheriff, be liable to a penalty not exceeding £100." General words of that kind would cover the whole object expressed by speaker after speaker. He hoped the right hon. Gentleman would see his way to accept some such solution.

MR. A. GRAHAM MURRAY said he had no right to speak again except by leave of the House. The right hon. Gentleman proposed to insert the word "soliciting" instead of "canvassing." One could understand what was meant by soliciting for a licence, but it would be argued on the other side that they could not solicit against a licence. Therefore, while hon. Members on the other side of the House were quite willing, frankly and honestly, to insert words like those proposed, the two sides would not be equal. Many people were actuated —he was not saying a word against the perfect integrity of their views—by the notion that they were fulfilling a high duty when as temperance reformers they were doing their best to prevent particular licences being granted. They did so on general principles and not because they had anything to say against A. or B. Were hon. Members who were anxious to have the clause made applicable to both sides prepared to put under £100 penalty every temperance reformer who did what he could with a licensing authority to prevent them from granting any more licences? [Cries of "Yes."] If so, they were prepared to go a great deal farther than he had ever heard them confess before. Should they make the clause more stringent still and say that every person who spoke to a member of a licensing authority on the subject of a licence should be liable to £100 penalty? People got information from what was said to them by other people, and if a member of a licensing authority was not to be allowed to commune with anybody at all on the question of what licences should or should not be granted, without making that person liable to a penalty, they ought to have a Licensing Court of Trappists who could not talk to anybody. The matter was fraught with difficulty. It was not that he had no sympathy with the idea which had been expressed, but he honestly thought that the alteration they were making in the Court, in having it a small body who were not like the old body that could be whipped up from all parts of the country, would be the real solution of the difficulty. He would have been perfectly willing to accept a clause on the question of bribery, because, although personally he thought bribery was always an offence, there was a decision that pointed the other way. He should have been glad to make it clear by Act of Parliament. He did think that on the whole it was safer not to accept the clause proposed by the hon. Member for Leith, but to trust to the ordinary amelioration of the position that would take place in there being a small and well-defined Court instead of a large body of justices who could be whipped up.

MR. PIKE PEASE (Darlington) said he was very sorry at the decision to which the Lord Advocate had come. It appeared to him that a licensing magistrate was in much the same position as a Judge, and that they ought to endeavour to prevent anyone buying up his judgment—for that was what it came to. He thought that the Government should be able to find some words which would express the unanimous wish.

CAPTAIN SINCLAIR (Forfar) said it was difficult for a layman to contest with the Lord Advocate on a point of law or a definition of terms. Very few of them but had had practical experience of this canvassing, and there seemed to be a unanimous opinion on all sides of the House that something should be done in the matter. If the clause passed its Second Reading he proposed to amend it by inserting the words suggested to the Lord Advocate by his right hon. friend—"Any person soliciting any member of the licensing authority in respect of any application for a licence shall," etc.

MR. PARKER SMITH (Lanarkshire, Partick) said that it would be exceedingly hard to draw the line between what was a perfectly legitimate giving of information and what was soliciting. He thought that any man sitting in a Licensing Court, who respected himself, would be perfectly able to protect himself against private solicitation. When, by the force of logic, hon. Gentlemen opposite said that they were willing to do as much on one side as on the other, was it conceivable to imagine that they were going to make a man pay a penalty of £100 who in any way expressed himself against the granting of a particular licence? He lived in a village where there was no licensed house at all, and he did not want one, and was he not to be free to say to a licensing magistrate, if he happened to meet him—"The village is going on admirably without a licensed house, and I do not want one?" Was he to be open to a penalty of £100 for passing that remark? He should be surprised if the temperance party throughout Scotland accepted that position, and did not use very strong expressions against limiting freedom of conversation outside the Licensing Court.

*MR. JOHN WILSON (Falkirk Burghs) said that as an employer, having a considerable experience on questions connected with licensing, he had long opposed licences being granted for houses near public works, where they were a very serious source of danger. Two years ago a firm of publicans took him into Court, at an ultimate cost of £200, simply because he had spoken to some of his brother magistrates against granting a licence near his collieries. It was all very well to talk about temperance reformers with biased minds, but that was what happened to an employer who opposed the granting of a licence for the benefit of his workmen, who themselves were all against the licence. He would not be inclined to support the equivalent; though he was quite willing to accept the proposal that a publican who was interested in getting a licence should be punished for soliciting a licensing magistrate. It was the pecuniary interest of a publican to get a licence: it was no interest to an employer to get the licence refused, otherwise than for the benefit of the workmen and their moral welfare.

MR. BUCHANAN (Perthshire, E.) said he hoped they had not got the last word from the Lord Advocate. This was one of the most important alterations, from a social point of view, that could be made in our licensing system. Anyone who had any experience in the administration of the licensing law could not but be aware of many flagrant cases of influences of the most objectionable kind being brought to bear on the licensing magistrate in favour of an application for a licence. It was no reply to the substance of the Amendment for the Lord Advocate to make of it a *reductio ad absurdum.* Surely it was not impossible—in fact he knew that it was not—for the skill of the Lord Advocate and the right hon. Gentleman at his side to devise a form of words not open to the difficulty the Lord Advocate had suggested.

SIR J. STIRLING-MAXWELL (Glasgow, College) thought that the Lord Advocate had taken a very wise course in this matter. As a possible member of a licensing authority he looked with great distrust on the clause. He knew that it had been customary in Scotland for applicants for a licence to canvas for votes of magistrates. For his part, if he had the honour of serving in a Licensing Court and a man came to him to ask for his vote he would say to that applicant, "Before you go any further perhaps I ought to inform you that I make it a rule to vote against any application for a licence which is accompanied by an unscrupulous canvas of this kind." If he took that course he did not think he would be troubled again.

MR. SAMUEL YOUNG (Cavan, E.) said he hoped the Lord Advocate would stick to his guns. The Amendment was one-sided and might do a great deal of injustice in many respects.

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 83; Noes, 146. (Division List No. 143.)

AYES.

Asher, Alexander
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Beaumont, Wentworth C. B.
Black, Alexander William
Bowles, T. G. (*Lynn Regis*)
Brown, Geo. M. (*Edinburgh*)
Bryce, Right Hon. James
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Burt, Thomas
Buxton, Sydney Charles
Caldwell, James
Cameron, Robert
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Corbett, A. Cameron (*Glasgow*
Craig, Robert Hunter (*Lanark*)
Crombie, John William
Crooks, William
Davies, Alfred (*Carmarthen*)
Davies, M. Vaughan-(*Cardigan*
Denny, Colonel
Douglas, Charles M. (*Lanark*)
Edwards, Frank
Elibank, Master of
Ellis, John Edward
Emmott, Alfred
Evans, Sir F. H. (*Maidstone*)
Farquharson, Dr. Robert
Foster, Sir Walter (*Derby Co.*
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Furness, Sir Christopher
Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herbert J.
Grey, Rt. Hn. Sir E. (*Berwick*
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Chas. Seale-
Hemphill, Rt. Hon. Chas. H.
Hobhouse, C. E. H. (*Bristl, E*
Houldsworth, Sir Wm. Henry
Hutchinson, Dr. Charles Fredk.
Joicey, Sir James
Jones, David Brynmor (*Swansea*
Jones, Wm. (*Carnarvonshire*)
Lambert, George
Langley, Batty
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (*Cornwall*)
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leese, Sir Jos. F. (*Accrington*)
Leigh, Sir Joseph
Leng, Sir John
Lloyd-George, David
Lough, Thomas
M'Crae, George
M'Iver, Sir Lewis (*Edinb'rgh, W*
M'Laren, Sir Charles Benj.
Mappin, Sir Fredk. Thorpe
Morgan, J. Lloyd (*Carmarthen*
Morley, Rt. Hn. John (*Montrose*
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Palmer, Sir C. M. (*Durham*)
Paulton, James Mellor
Pease, H. Pike (*Darlington*)
Pirie, Duncan V.
Reid, Sir R. T. (*Dumfries*)
Robertson, Edmund (*Dundee*)
Russell, T. W.
Samuel, Herbert L. (*Cleveland*)
Sinclair, John (*Forfarshire*)
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Spear, John Ward
Taylor, Theodore C. (*Radcliffe*)
Tennant, Harold John
Thomas, Sir A. (*Glam., E.*)
Tomkinson, James
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Tritton, Charles Ernest
Ure, Alexander
Wallace, Robert
Walton, Joseph (*Barnsley*)
Warner, Thos. Courtenay T.
Wason, E. (*Clackmannan*)
Wason, J. Cathcart (*Orkney*)
Weir, James Galloway
White, Luke (*York, E.R.*)
Whitley, J. H. (*Halifax*)
Wilson, John (*Falkirk*)

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
Mr. Munro Ferguson and
Sir Mark Stewart.

NOES.

Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Ambrose, Robert
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Anstruther, H. T.
Arrol, Sir William
Atkinson, Right Hon. John
Aubrey-Fletcher, Rt. Hn. Sir H.
Bagot, Capt. Josceline FitzRoy
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Baird, John George Alexander
Baldwin, Alfred
Balfour, Rt. Hon. AJ (*Manch'r.*)
Balfour, Rt. Hn. G. W. (*Leeds*)
Bathurst, Hon. Allen Benjamin
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bill, Charles
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Bull, William James
Burke, E. Haviland
Campbell, Rt. Hon. J. A. (*Glasg.*
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Cavendish, V. C. W. (*Derbysh.*
Cecil, Evelyn (*Aston Manor*)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (*Greenwich*)
Chamberlain, Rt Hon J (*Birm*
Chamberlain, Rt Hn J. A. (*Worc*
Chaplin, Right Hon. Henry
Chapman, Edward
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Clive, Captain Percy A.
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Colston, Chas. Edw H. Athole
Crossley, Sir Savile
Dalkeith, Earl of
Devlin, Joseph (*Kilkenny, N.*)
Dickson, Charles Scott
Dimsdale, Rt. Hon. Sir Jos. C
Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
Dixon-Hartland, Sir F. Dixon
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers
Dyke, Rt. Hon. Sir Wm. Hart
Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas

Mr. Buchanan.

Fardell, Sir T. George
Fergusson, Rt Hn. Sir J. (*Man'r*
Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
FitzGerald, Sir Robt. Penrose
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Flower, Ernest
Forster, Henry William
Foster, Philip S. (*Warwick, S. W*
Fyler, John Arthur
Galloway, William Johnson
Gardner, Ernest
Gibbs, Hon A G H (*City of Lond'n*
Gibbs, Hn. Vicary (*St. Albans*
Gordon, Hn. J. E. (*Elgin & Nairn*
Gordon, Maj Evans (*T'r H'mlets*
Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir J. Eldon
Goschen, Hon. Geo. Joachim
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Gretton, John
Groves, James Grimble
Halsey, Rt. Hon. Thomas F.
Hamilton, Rt Hn Ld. G. (*Midx*
Hatch, Ernest Frederick G.
Heath, James (*Staffords. N. W.*
Heaton, John Henniker
Helder, Augustus
Hoult, Joseph
Johnstone, Heywood
Kemp, Lieut.-Colonel George
Kenyon-Slaney, Col. W. (*Salop*
Kerr, John
Knowles, Lees
Law, Andrew Bonar (*Glasgow*
Lawrence, Wm. F. (*Liverpool*)
Lawson, Jn. Grant (*Yorks. N. R.*
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leveson-Gower, Frederick N. S.
Lockwood, Lieut.-Col. A. R.
Long, Col. Chas. W. (*Evesham*
Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (*Bristol, S*
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lucas, Col. Francis (*Lowestoft*)
Lucas, Reg'ld J. (*Portsmouth*)
Macdona, John Cumming
M'Killop, James (*Stirlingshire*)
M'Killop, W. (*Sligo, North*)
Maxwell, Rt Hn Sir H. E (*Wigt'n*
Meysey-Thompson, Sir H. M.
Mitchell, William (*Burnley*)
Morrison, James Archibald
Morton, Arthur H. Aylmer
Mount, William Arthur
Mowbray, Sir Robt. Gray C.
Murray, Rt Hn A. Graham (*Bute*
Murray, Chas. J. (*Coventry*)
O'Brien, P. J. (*Tipperary, N.*)
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, Conor (*Mayo, N.*)
Orr-Ewing, Charles Lindsay
Parkes, Ebenezer
Pemberton, John S. G.
Percy, Earl
Pilkington, Col. Richard
Plummer, Walter R.
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Randles, John S.
Rattigan, Sir William Henry
Redmond, Jn. E. (*Waterford*)
Reid, James (*Greenock*)
Remnant, Jas. Farquharson
Renshaw, Sir Charles Bine
Ritchie, Rt. Hn. C. Thomson
Roberts, Samuel (*Sheffield*)
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford
Sadler, Col. Samuel Alexander
Samuel, Harry S. (*Limehouse*)
Seely, Maj. J. E. B. (*Isle of Wight*
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Shaw-Stewart, M. H. (*Renfrew*
Simeon, Sir Barrington
Sinclair, Louis (*Romford*)
Smith, James Parker (*Lanarks.*
Stanley, Lord (*Lancs.*)
Stirling-Maxwell, Sir Jn. M.
Stroyan, John
Talbot, Lord E. (*Chichester*)
Taylor, Austin (*East Toxteth*)
Valentia, Viscount
Walrond, Rt. Hon. Sir Wm. H.
Wanklyn, James Leslie
Welby, Lt.-Col. A C E (*Taunton*
Williams, Rt Hn J Powell- (*Birm*
Wills, Sir Frederick
Wilson, A. S. (*York, E. R.*)
Wilson John (*Glasgow*)
Worsley-Taylor, Hry. Wilson
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Young, Samuel

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Mr. Fellowes.

SIR J. STIRLING-MAXWELL said that the clause he now moved was taken from the English Act, and had reference to persons found in licensed premises after the hour of closing. The matter was dealt with to some extent under Clause 67, which made it actionable to be found on licensed premises after the hour of closing. He moved the clause both in the interests of temperance and also in the interests of persons conducting licensed houses.

Clause (Penalty on person found on premises during closing hours)—

"If, during any period during which any premises are required under the provisions of this Act to be closed, any person is found on such premises, he shall, unless he satisfies the Court that he was an inmate, servant, or a lodger on such premises, or a *bonâ fide* traveller, or that otherwise his presence on such premises was not in contravention of the provision of this Act with respect to the closing of the licensed premises, be liable to a penalty not exceeding 40s. Any constable may demand the name and address of any person found on any premises during the period during which they are required by the provisions of this Act to be closed, and if he has reasonable ground to suppose that the name and address given is false may require evidence of the correctness of such name and address, and may, if such person fail upon such demand to give his name or address or such evidence, apprehend him without warrant and convey him as soon as practicable before a justice of the peace or other magistrate. Any person required by a constable under this section to give his name and address who fails to give the same, or gives a false name and address, or gives false evidence with respect to such name and address, shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding £5.—(*Sir J. Stirling-Maxwell.*)

Brought up, and read the first time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the clause be read a second time."

MR. A. GRAHAM MURRAY said that the fate of the hon. Baronet's clause in Committee was that it was negatived without a division. He hoped its fate on Report would be the same. The similar clause in the English Act had been of no use whatever except to the lawyers. He would put a perfectly simple case to show how the clause would work. A person keeping a hotel had friends. He presumed a hotel-keeper was entitled to have friends. A friend might come to see him and remain after the closing hour—say ten o'clock. He would not be an inmate or a servant or a lodger or a *bonâ fide* traveller. Yet, according to the view of the hon. Baronet, the hotel-keeper would be obliged to turn his friend into the street at ten o'clock. Surely the hotel-keeper might be allowed a little time to indulge in intellectual recreation after the heavy work of inn-keeping during the day. He thought the clause would not check any abuse, although it might lead to many cases being argued in the Courts.

Question put and negatived.

Mr. GALLOWAY said that the object of the clause he would now move was to place railway refreshment rooms in Scotland in exactly the position they were in England. He did not deny that there was a good deal to be said on both sides of the question. There was much to be said for the clause on the ground of convenience. As he understood the objection to the clause, it was that it might lead to a great deal of abuse by persons being allowed to purchase a penny ticket and then get drink at the railway refreshment rooms when the public houses were closed. That was an evil which the House should not do anything to continue; but he thought the accounts which had been given of what happened in Scotland in that respect had been greatly exaggerated. He did not think that many persons would take the trouble to go to a railway station and purchase a ticket in order to get drink. But the railway companies would not be compelled to open their refreshment rooms; if they were, there might be a great deal of force in what he might call the penny-railway-ticket argument. He moved the clause in the interests of the travelling public. It worked well in England; and he did not see how it could work any harm in Scotland. If the railway companies found that the clause was being availed of by persons purchasing penny tickets they could put up the price of the tickets and preclude any such possibility taking place.

Clause (Exemption of Railway Stations)—

"Nothing in this Act contained as to hours of closing shall preclude the sale at any time at a railway station of excisable liquors to persons arriving at or departing from such station by railroad."—(*Mr. Galloway.*)

Brought up and read the first time.

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the clause be read a second time."

Mr. A. GRAHAM MURRAY said that the fate of this clause in Committee was that it was defeated by seventeen votes to sixteen. He himself voted in the minority. It seemed to him that there were certain stations in Scotland where there ought to be facilities for the sale of liquor. He would instance Perth, where people arrived very often after a tedious journey; and it was really very inconvenient that they should not be allowed to be served with liquor on such occasions. On the other hand, there were stations such as the Central Station at Glasgow where it would be inadvisable that liquor should be sold after the public houses had been shut. If the railway companies found that such a station was being turned into an ordinary public house, for their own protection they should cease to supply liquor when the public houses were closed. Having regard to his own view to alter the Bill as little as possible he would not propose to take any strictly Government part in the division. He should repeat his vote in Committee in favour of the clause, but he should leave the hon. Member to persuade the House to vote for it without the assistance of the Government.

Sir ROBERT REID said it came back to this. Where they had private premises in a particular borough were they to regulate them for the inhabitants of the borough or for the purposes of convenience of fifteen or twenty persons a week who might want to get a drink after ten o'clock at night. These refreshment rooms belonged to railway companies, but were not managed by them, they were often sub-let, and it was quite impossible for those who managed them to know whether the persons who came and asked for drink were persons who had arrived or who were about to depart from the station. The result would be that indiscriminate use would be made of these refreshment rooms by persons for whom they were not intended. Where public houses were closed at ten o'clock these refreshment rooms would be open until eleven or after for the convenience of persons coming through by train. They must take into consideration what were the worst evils. In the one case this clause might go far to do away with all the good of early closing all over Scotland, and in the other, there was the convenience of a few gentlemen travelling North. Such a clause would be intolerable. The Lord Advocate had said very fairly he did not wish to regard this Amendment as a Government Amendment, and he (Sir Robert Reid) hoped that all the Scottish Members would vote against it.

SIR J FERGUSSON said he spoke from frequent experience of the hardship as it stood. The magistrates of Scotland had, within certain limits, power to shorten the hours during which licensed premises might remain open. It constantly happened that people arriving at large stations by late trains were unable to get even a cup of tea or coffee because the refreshment room was not allowed to be open owing to excisable liquors being sold there. That was a monstrous hardship. Real travellers ought not to be debarred from getting refreshments under such circumstances. He thought the proposal was a reasonable one and would support it.

*SIR HERBERT MAXWELL (Wigtonshire) said he could assure the House that, on the railway of which he had been a director for thirteen years, none of the refreshment rooms were sub-let to any contractor. They were all under the hotel management. He would also point out that railway companies did not keep these bars in order to make a profit out of them, but as a convenience for their passengers, who were the customers of these bars. In any case where doubt arose about the *bonâ fides* of a customer, he might be called upon to show his railway ticket. He thought sufficient had been said to justify the demand on the part of the Scotch railways and he should support the clause.

MR. MUNRO FERGUSON said he hoped this clause would not be put into the Bill. Unless a passenger wanted a bottle of whiskey at six in the morning, which was the worst time of the day he could take it, he could get all he wanted from the refreshment car. There were abuses to be considered in this matter. Waverley Station was often over-crowded, especially at night, with persons who had been drinking somewhere if not in the refreshment room. On many occasions the condition of Waverley Station was not at all what it ought to be, and this clause, if included in the Bill, would not tend to decrease the overcrowding. For his part he hoped the Bill would remain as it was.

MR. CORBETT (Glasgow, Tradeston) said he hoped the clause would not be carried. He thought that those who only considered the convenience of the traveller getting liquor when he wanted it, did not regard the magnitude of the problem before them. That was surely a trifle compared to the wellbeing of the Scottish people.

MR. GRETTON (Derbyshire, S.) said they had had some experience of refreshment bars in England, and that experience did not lead them to anticipate any of those violent evils which some were afraid would occur in Scotland. The railway companies were interested in their property and would see that it was not deteriorated by mismanagement. He did not think there would be any greater iniquity if this was enforced in Scotland than there was in England. It seemed to him a great hardship that travellers should not be able to obtain such refreshments as they required.

SIR MARK STEWART said he was a director for eighteen years of a very small line of railway, and upon that line of railway no liquor was ever allowed to be sold, but he did not notice in consequence that the conditions of travelling were bad, whilst the conditions of the railway stations were distinctly different to those on other lines. There was a very great temptation to railway servants to go into a railway bar and drink. Drink was given them by passengers, and disastrous consequences sometimes ensued.

Question put.

The House divided: Ayes, 148; Noes, 117. (Division List No. 144.)

AYES.

Acland-Hood, Capt. Sir A. F.
Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Anstruther, H. T.
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Aubrey-Fletcher, Rt. Hn. Sir H.
Bailey, James (*Walworth*)
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Baldwin, Alfred
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J. (*Manch'r*
Balfour, Capt. C. B. (*Hornsey*
Balfour, Rt. Hn. G. W. (*Leeds*)
Bathurst, Hon. Allen Benj.
Beach, Rt. Hon. Sir M. Hicks
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bill, Charles
Brassey, Albert
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Bull, William James
Burke, E. Haviland-
Cavendish, V. C. W. (*Derbyshire*
Cecil, Evelyn (*Aston Manor*)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (*Greenwich*)
Chamberlain, Rt Hon J (*Birm*
Chamberlain, Rt. Hn. J. A (*Worc*
Chaplin, Right Hon. Henry
Chapman, Edward
Clive, Captain Percy A.
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Colston, Chas. Edw. H. Athole
Cook, Sir Frederick Lucas
Cox, Irwin Edward Bainbridge
Cross, H. Shepherd (*Bolton*)
Crossley, Sir Savile
Devlin, Joseph (*Kilkenny, N.*)
Dickinson, Robert Edmond
Dickson, Charles Scott
Dimsdale, Rt. Hon. Sir Joseph C.
Dixon-Hartland, Sir F. Dixon
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers
Dyke, Rt. Hon. Sir Wm. Hart
Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas
Faber, George Denison (*York*)
Fardell, Sir T. George
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Ed.
Fergusson, Rt. Hn. Sir J. (*Man'r*
Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Firbank, Sir Joseph Thomas
Fisher, William Hayes
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Flower, Ernest
Forster, Henry William
Foster, Philip S. (*Warwick, S. W*
Fyler, John Arthur
Gardner, Ernest
Garfit, William
Gibbs, Hn A. G. H (*City of Lond*
Gibbs, Hn. Vicary (*St. Albans*
Gordon, Hn. J. E. (*Elgin & Nairn*
Gordon, Maj Evans- (*Tr. H ml'ts*
Gore, Hn G. R. C. Ormsby- (*Salop*
Gore, Hon. S. F. Ormsby- (*Linc*)
Goschen, Hon. Geo. Joachim
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Gretton, John
Greville, Hon. Ronald
Groves, James Grimble
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Gunter, Sir Robert
Halsey, Rt. Hon. Thomas F.
Hamilton, Rt Hn Ld. G. (*Midx*
Hatch, Ernest Frederick G.
Heath, James (*Staffs., N. W.*)
Helder, Augustus
Jeffreys, Rt. Hon. Arthur Fred.
Johnstone, Heywood
Kenyon-Slaney, Col. W. (*Salop*
Kerr, John
Knowles, Lees
Law, Andrew Bonar (*Glasgow*)
Lawrence, Wm. F. (*Liverpool*
Lawson, John Grant (*Yorks. N R*
Lees, Sir Elliott (*Birkenhead*)
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leveson-Gower, Frederick N. S.
Lockwood, Lieut.-Col. A. R.
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Long, Col. Chas. W. (*Evesham*
Long, Rt Hn. Walter (*Bristol, S*
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas, Col. Francis (*Lowestoft*
Lucas, Reg'ld J. (*Portsmouth*)
Macdona, John Cumming
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
M'Iver, Sir Lewis (*Edinburgh W*
M'Killop, W. (*Sligo, North*)
Malcolm, Ian
Manners, Lord Cecil
Maxwell, Rt. Hn Sir H. E. (*Wig'n*
Meysey-Thompson, Sir H. M.
Mitchell, William (*Burnley*)
Morgan, D. J. (*Walthamstow*)
Morrison, James Archibald
Morton, Arthur H. Aymler
Mowbray, Sir Robt. Gray C.
Murray, Rt Hn A. Graham (*Bute*
Murray, Charles J. (*Coventry*)
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, Conor (*Mayo, N.*)
Pemberton, John S. G.
Pilkington, Colonel Richard
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Purvis, Robert
Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
Redmond, Jn. E. (*Waterford*)
Reid, James (*Greenock*)
Remnant, James Farquharson
Ritchie, Rt. Hn. Chas. Thomson
Roberts, Samuel (*Sheffield*)
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford
Sadler, Col. Samuel Alexander
Samuel, Harry S. (*Limehouse*)
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Seely, Mj. J. E. B. (*Isle of Wight*
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Simeon, Sir Barrington
Sinclair, Louis (*Romford*)
Smith, Abel H. (*Hertford, E.*)
Stanley, Edw. Jas. (*Somerset*)
Stanley, Lord (*Lancs*)
Sturt, Hn. Humphrey Napier
Talbot, Lord E. (*Chichester*)
Thornton, Percy M.
Valentia, Viscount
Vincent, Sir Edgar (*Exeter*)
Walrond, Rt. Hn. Sir William H
Wanklyn, James Leslie
Warde, Colonel C. E.
Warner, Thos. Courtenay T.
Williams, Rt Hn J Powell- (*Birm*
Wills, Sir Frederick
Wilson, A. S. (*York, E. R.*)
Wilson-Todd, W. H. (*Yorks.*)
Worsley-Taylor, Hry. Wilson
Young, Samuel

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Galloway and Earl of Dalkeith.

NOES.

Arrol, Sir William
Asher, Alexander
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Asquith, Rt. Hon. Herbt. Hy.
Bagot, Capt. Josceline FitzRoy
Baird, John George Alexander
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Beaumont, Wentworth C. B.
Black, Alexander William
Brand, Hon. Arthur G.
Brown, Geo. M. (*Edinburgh*)
Sir Mark Stewart.
Bryce, Right Hon. James
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Burt, Thomas
Buxton, Sydney Charles
Caldwell, James
Cameron, Robert
Campbell, Rt. Hn. J. A. (*Glasgw*
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Cochrane, Hon. T. H. A. E.
Corbett, A. Cameron (*Glasg.*)
Craig, Robert Hunter (*Lanark*)
Crombie, John William
Crooks, William
Davies, Alfred (*Carmarthen*)
Davies, M. Vaughan (*Cardigan*)
Denny, Colonel
Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
Douglas Charles M. (*Lanark*)
Dunn, Sir William
Edwards, Frank

Elibank, Master of
Ellis, John Edward
Emmott, Alfred
Evans, Sir F. H. (*Maidstone*)
Farquharson, Dr. Robert
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Foster, Sir Walter (*Derby Co.*
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Furness, Sir Christopher
Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir J. Eldon
Grey, Rt. Hn. Sir E. (*Berwick*
Harmsworth, R. Leicester
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Chas. Seale-
Hayter, Rt Hon Sir Arthur D.
Heath, Arthur H. (*Hanley*)
Heaton, John Henniker
Hobhouse, C. E. H. (*Bristl, E*
Horniman, Frederick John
Houldsworth, Sir Wm. Henry
Hoult, Joseph
Hutchinson, Dr. Charles Fredk.
Joicey, Sir James
Jones, David B. (*Swansea*)
Jones, William (*Carnarvonsh.*
Kemp, Lieut.-Colonel George
Labouchere, Henry
Langley, Batty
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (*Cornwall*)
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leese, Sir Jos. F. (*Accrington*)
Leigh, Sir Joseph
Leng, Sir John
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
M'Crae, George
M'Kenna, Reginald
M'Killop, Jas. (*Stirlingshire*)
Mappin, Sir Fredk. Thorpe
Morgan, J. Lloyd (*Carmarthen*
Morley, Rt. Hn. John (*Montrose*
Mount, William Arthur
Orr-Ewing, Charles Lindsay
Palmer, Sir C. M. (*Durham*)
Partington, Oswald
Paulton, James Mellor
Pease, H. Pike (*Darlington*)
Percy, Earl
Philipps, John Wynford
Pirie, Duncan V.
Plummer, Walter R.
Price, Robert John
Randles, John S.
Rattigan, Sir William Henry
Reid, Sir R. Threshie (*Dumfries*
Robertson, Edmund (*Dundee*)
Round, Rt. Hon. James
Russell, T. W.
Samuel, Herbt. L. (*Cleveland*)
Sinclair, John (*Forfarshire*)
Smith, James Parker (*Lanarks.*
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Spear, John Ward
Stewart, Sir M. J. M'Taggart
Stroyan, John
Taylor, Austin (*East Toxteth*)
Taylor, Theodore C. (*Radcliffe*)
Tennant, Harold John
Thomas, A. (*Carmarthen, E.*)
Thomas, Sir A. (*Glam., E.*)
Thomas, David A. (*Merthyr*)
Thomson, F. W. (*York, W. R.*)
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Tritton, Charles Ernest
Ure, Alexander
Wallace, Robert
Walton, Joseph (*Barnsley*)
Wason, E. (*Clackmannan*)
Wason, John Cathcart (*Orkney*)
Weir, James Galloway
Welby, Lt.-Col. A. C. E. (*Taunton*
White, Luke (*York, E. R.*)
Whitley, J. H. (*Halifax*)
Wilson, John (*Falkirk*)
Wilson, John (*Glasgow*)

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
Mr. Munro Ferguson and
Sir Charles Renshaw.

Clause added to the Bill.

MR. CROMBIE, who had given notice of an Amendment to omit "and Appeal Courts" from the heading to Part I., asked whether the retention of the word "appeal" would preclude him from moving the omission of Clause 4? If not, he would not detain the House by moving the Amendment.

*MR. SPEAKER said the words were not so far a part of the Bill that their retention would preclude the hon. Member moving the omission of Clause 4.

MR. CROMBIE said in that case he would move the second Amendment of which he had given notice—viz., to substitute "authorities" for "Courts" in line 6. Many Members had a suspicion of the word "Courts," as it represented a new departure. In an important licensing case the decision had turned on whether or not the licensing body was a Court, and the point was decided in the negative. For the reasons which had been given they preferred the word "authority."

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 10, to leave out the word 'Courts,' and insert the word 'authorities.'"—(*Mr. Crombie.*)

Question proposed. "That the word 'Courts' stand part of the Bill."

MR. A. GRAHAM MURRAY said that if the word "Court" did not stand "authority" would not do. They had taken the word "Court," because it was the ordinary word in Scotland used in every newspaper, used by the Judges, and in the judicial statistics. He did not think hon. Members opposite could produce a single Scottish newspaper in which the proceedings of the licensing bodies had been called anything else but a licensing Court. Of course it was not a Court of law, but there was a judicial discretion to be exercised by the magistrate who sat upon the new body. He assured the House that not only was the word "Court" the word which had always been used, but it was the most convenient, and he hoped that they would not alter the term.

SIR ROBERT REID said he did not want to make too much of this Amendment, but at the same time it was rather important. The Lord Advocate had told them that if they looked in Scotch newspapers or consulted the opinions of Scotch Judges or looked at the judicial statistics they would see that the word used was "Court." The right hon. Gentleman had omitted to say that there had never been any statute in which this body had been called a Court and it had never been so called in any Act of Parliament. What was the reason for the change? He did not think they ought to pay much attention to what term newspaper reporters employed in this matter. The word "Court" seemed to mean something in the nature of a judicial tribunal. Some question arose in regard to the functions of this tribunal in the English Courts, and great stress was laid upon the circumstances that it was not called a Court in the Act of Parliament, and the Judges pointed out that if it had been called a Court some different construction might have been arrived at. The question whether this was called a Court or not, might have some effect upon the application of the general law. He did not think it was unreasonable to entertain some apprehension as to what might occur if the inexplicable practice of using understood terms were not to be abandoned in favour of other words.

SIR J. FERGUSSON asked the hon. and learned Gentleman what sort of a Court he considered Quarter Sessions was. Cases of this kind often came before Quarter Sessions, and now it was proposed to substitute another term.

*MR. McCRAE (Edinburgh, E.) said he hoped the Lord Advocate would meet them upon this point, as there was considerable feeling with regard to the danger of putting another interpretation upon the word "Court." In a deputation which waited on the Secretary for Scotland, opinion was unanimous as to the danger of this change, and he understood that the Lord Advocate was at one with them and the general feeling of the House upon the merits of the question. The Lord-Advocate told them that the word "authorities" was not the proper word to use, but he did not tell them why. Surely he could supply a word instead of "Court," which would not have the danger, and which would not lead to litigation in the future. Seeing that they were at one upon the merits of the question with the Lord Advocate, he hoped the right hon Gentleman would allow this change to be made.

MR. WHITTAKER (Yorkshire, W.R., Spen Valley) said this was a vital matter, because these authorities did not sit as Courts. The Lord Chancellor had pointed out that these bodies sat as a meeting and not as a Court. Before this change was made, they ought to know what was the object of making it. If this clause passed as it stood it would be held that licensing authorities sat as Courts and acted judicially. Such a contention was absolutely contrary to the law, because they did not sit as Judges to decide, or as a Court, and they ought to know what the object of the Government was in insisting upon this change. There was not an Act of Parliament in Scotland, and no licensing Act which described these bodies as sitting as Courts, and to give them the name of "Court" would go a long way towards making them into Courts, and therefore this was a vital matter in regard to the administration of the licensing laws.

MR. T. W. RUSSELL (Tyrone, S.) pointed out that when the Prime Minister was called upon to defend the language he used about the licensing magistrates he defended it upon the express grounds that they did not constitute a Court.

MR. ASQUITH (Fifeshire, E.) said it might be argued that this was a matter of phraseology, but it was a change of phraseology which might well be held to mark a new departure indicated by the legislature by the selection for the first time of a term like this. Here they were constituting a new body and they proposed to give to it a designation which he thought must be interpreted by any tribunal afterwards as implying the exercising of judicial functions. That was a designation which was wholly inappropriate to describe the functions of the licensing authority. There was no litigation and no parties, and the matter was an administrative one to be determined in a judicial manner. Therefore, it was a most undesirable thing to start this new departure, which suggested that the new bodies that they were going to call into existence were judicial tribunals.

MR. A. GRAHAM MURRAY pointed out that they had to give notice in such appeals to the opposite party.

MR. WALLACE said he understood from the Lord Advocate that after this Act was passed those who were members of this so-called Court who had private knowledge of their own and information in regard to the locality to lay before their colleagues, could not do so unless it was offered as evidence before the Court. He did not think the Lord Advocate was right in imposing upon the authorities he wished to create, the obligation of acting as a Court of law, and deciding upon evidence placed before it. That was one thing which they had always protested against. It appeared to him that it was intended by a side wind to enact that, in future, magistrates should be restricted simply to listening to evidence, and would not be allowed to bring private information which they had received in connection with the locality before their colleagues. This would introduce an entirely new state of things into Scotland, which a great majority of hon. Members were not prepared for. Therefore Scotch Members were justified in strongly protesting against a change which seemed to them unnecessary.

MR. HUNTER CRAIG (Lanarkshire, Govan) said that when a deputation waited upon the Secretary for Scotland some time ago he assured them that the use of the word "Court" did not mean an alteration of the constitution of the licensing authority. He hoped the Lord Advocate would not persist in using the word "Court," thereby limiting the powers of the licensing authority. In this consolidating Bill the word "Court" appeared about 180 times. Why not use the word authority?

COLONEL DENNY (Kilmarnock Burghs) asked whether the word "Court" would bring about a change in the procedure of the licensing bodies.

MR. A. GRAHAM MURRAY: No.

SIR JOHN LENG said he wished to point out two remarkable facts. In connection with the Licensing Commission, which sat three or four years ago, the tribunals that disposed of licences were never spoken of as Courts. Not only so, but in the Bill passed two years ago dealing with the licensing question in England this word was not applied as it was applied in this Bill. As to its being a question of phraseology, he thought the Lord Advocate in Grand Committee much more definitely repudiated the idea that this was to be a Court in the ordinary sense than he had done in the House to-day. He would be satisfied if the Lord Advocate would repeat in the House what he said in Grand Committee. Then that would stand in the reports of this House.

MR. A. GRAHAM MURRAY said he would be most happy to repeat in the House what he said in Grand Committee—namely, that the use of the word "Court" was not intended to in any way trench upon the absolute discretion of the licensing bodies. They were entitled not only to act upon evidence but also on their own general information as to the merits of the case. He could not see how any question of legal interpretation could arise on the word "Court" at all.

MR. CALDWELL (Lanarkshire, Mid) said the word "Court" was a misnomer here. In the case of an application for a licence they proceeded on the footing that the sale of intoxicating liquor was prohibited and that the law sanctioned the granting of a licence to a certain individual to meet the requirements of a certain locality. He therefore thought that the Court of first instance was not a Court in the ordinary sense of the term. He quite admitted that the word Court was so frequently used that the meeting of the magistrates or justices had come to be regarded as a Court. At the same time he did not think that a matter of this kind should be determined by a word which had cropped up accidentally. He ventured to say that in a statute, Parliament generally used language appropriate to the purpose. Here they were dealing with a case where the granting of licences was a power conferred on the licensing authority. A person who applied for a licence had no legal right to a licence, and he could make no complaint if the application was refused. The power of granting or refusing was entirely vested in the justices, and they were not bound to give any reason why they refused a licence. The Lord Advocate had referred to the term "Appeal Court" in the Home Drummond Act, but that was a different matter. It was quite possible that there might be an Appeal Court in connection with which certain procedure had to be taken as to the serving of intimation and the hearing of parties, but there was nothing analogous to that, in the granting of licences in the first instance. He believed the Government desired to introduce the thin end of the wedge so that eventually the licensing authority, instead of having the absolute discretion it had now, would be hedged about with statutory restrictions by which it should only be able on certain grounds to refuse the renewal of licences. That was the meaning of the use of the word Court, but it was absolutely inappropriate to the body dealing with an application where no one had any absolute claim.

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 206; Noes, 90. (Division List, No. 145.)

AYES.

Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Anstruther, H. T.
Arrol, Sir William
Atkinson, Right Hon. John
Aubrey-Fletcher, Rt. Hn. Sir H.
Bagot, Capt. Josceline FitzRoy
Bailey, James (*Walworth*)
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Baird, John George Alexander
Balcarres, Lord
Baldwin, Alfred
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J. (*Man'r*
Balfour, Capt. C. B. (*Hornsey*
Balfour, Rt. Hn. G. W. (*Leeds*
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Bartley, Sir George C. T.
Bathurst, Hon. Allen Benj.
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bill, Charles
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith
Bowles, Col. Henry F. (*Midd'x*)
Brassey, Albert
Bull, William James
Burke, E. Haviland
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Cavendish, R. F. (*N. Lancs.*)
Cavendish, V. C. W. (*Derbysh.*)
Cecil, Evelyn (*Aston Manor*)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (*Greenwich*)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hn J A (*Worc*)
Chapman, Edward
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Clive, Captain Percy A.
Cochrane, Hon. T. H. A. E.
Colston, Chas. Edw H. Athole
Cox, Irwin Edwd. Bainbridge
Cranborne, Viscount
Cross, H. Shepherd (*Bolton*)
Crossley, Sir Savile
Cullinan, J.
Dalkeith, Earl of
Denny, Colonel
Devlin, Joseph (*Kilkenny, N.*)
Dickinson, Robert Edmond
Dickson, Charles Scott
Digby, John K. D. Wingfield-
Dimsdale, Rt. Hon. Sir Jos. C.
Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
Dixon-Hartland, Sir F. Dixon
Donelan, Captain A.
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers
Dyke, Rt. Hon. Sir Wm. Hart
Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas
Faber, George Denison (*York*)
Fardell, Sir T. George
Fergusson, Rt Hn. Sir J. (*Man'r*
Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Firbank, Sir Joseph Thomas
Fisher, William Hayes
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Flynn, James Christopher
Forster, Henry William
Foster, Philip S. (*Warwick, S W.*
Fyler, John Arthur
Galloway, William Johnson
Gardner, Ernest
Garfit, William
Gibbs, Hn A. G. H (*City of Lond*
Gibbs, Hn. Vicary (*St. Albans*
Gordon, Hn. J E. (*Elgin & N'rn*
Gore, Hn G. R. C. Ormsby- (*Salop*
Gore, Hn. S. F. Ormsby- (*Linc*
Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir J. Eldon
Goschen, Hon. Geo. Joachim
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Gretton, John
Greville, Hon. Ronald
Groves, James Grimble
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Gunter, Sir Robert
Halsey, Rt. Hon. Thomas F.
Hamilton, Rt Hn Ld. G. (*Midx*
Hatch, Ernest Frederick G.
Heath, Arthur H. (*Hanley*)
Heath, James (*Staffs., N. W.*)
Heaton, John Henniker
Helder, Augustus
Hogg, Lindsay
Houldsworth, Sir Wm. Henry
Hoult, Joseph
Jeffreys, Rt. Hn. Arthur Fred
Johnstone, Heywood
Kemp, Lieut.-Colonel George
Kenyon-Slaney Col. W. (*Salop*
Kerr, John
King, Sir Henry Seymour
Knowles, Lees
Lambton, Hon. Fredk. Wm.
Law, Andrew Bonar (*Glasgow*)
Lawrence, Wm. F. (*Liverpool*)
Lawson, John Grant (*Yorks. N R*
Lees, Sir Elliott (*Birkenhead*)
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leveson-Gower, Frederick N. S.
Lockwood, Lieut.-Col. A. R.
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Long, Col. Charles W (*Evesham*)
Long, Rt. Hn. W. (*Bristol, S.*
Lowe, Francis William
Lowther, C. (*Cumb. Eskdale*)
Lowther, Rt. Hon. Jas. (*Kent*)
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas, Col. Francis (*Lowestoft*
Lucas, Reginald J. (*Portsmouth*)
Macdona, John Cumming
MacIver, David (*Liverpool*)
M'Arthur, Charles (*Liverpool*)
M'Iver, Sir Lewis (*Edinburgh W*
M'Killop, Jas. (*Stirlingshire*)
M'Killop, W. (*Sligo, North*)
Malcolm, Ian
Manners, Lord Cecil
Maxwell, Rt Hn Sir H E. (*Wigt'n*
Meysey-Thompson, Sir H. M.
Mitchell, William (*Burnley*)
Molesworth, Sir Lewis
Morgan, D. J. (*Walthamstow*)
Morgan, Hn. F. (*Monm'thsh.*)
Morrison, James Archibald
Morton, Arthur H. Aylmer
Mowbray, Sir Robert Gray C.
Muntz, Sir Philip A.
Murray, Rt Hn A. Graham (*Bute*
Myers, William Henry
O'Brien, P. J. (*Tipperary, N.*)
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, Conor (*Mayo, N.*)
Orr-Ewing, Charles Lindsay
Pease, H. Pike (*Darlington*)
Peel, Hn. Wm. R. Wellesley
Pemberton, John S. G.
Percy, Earl
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Plummer, Walter R.
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Pretyman, Ernest George
Purvis, Robert
Randles, John S.
Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
Rattigan, Sir William Henry
Redmond, Jn. E. (*Waterford*)
Reid, James (*Greenock*)
Remnant, Jas. Farquharson

Mr. Caldwell.

Renshaw, Sir Charles Bine
Ritchie, Rt. Hn. C. Thomson
Roberts, Samuel (*Sheffield*)
Roche, John
Law, Andrew Bonar (*Glasgow*
Round, Rt. Hon. James
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford
Sadler, Col. Saml. Alexander
Samuel, Harry S. (*Limehouse*)
Sandys, Lt.-Col. Thos. Myles
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Seely, Charles Hilton (*Lincoln*
Shaw-Stewart, M. H. (*Renfrew*
Simeon, Sir Barrington
Sinclair, Louis (*Romford*)
Smith, Abel H. (*Hertford, E.*)
Smith, James Parker (*Lanarks.*
Spear, John Ward
Stanley, Edw. Jas. (*Somerset*)
Stanley, Lord (*Lancs.*)
Stewart, Sir M. J. M'Taggart
Stirling-Maxwell, Sir John M.
Stroyan, John
Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
Sturt, Hn. Humphrey Napier
Talbot, Lord E. (*Chichester*)
Taylor, Austin (*East Toxteth*)
Thornton, Percy M.
Tritton, Charles Ernest
Ure, Alexander
Valentia, Viscount
Vincent, Sir Edgar (*Exeter*)
Walrond, Rt. Hon. Sir W. H.
Wanklyn, James Leslie
Warde, Colonel C. E.
Welby, Lt.-Col. A. C. E (*Taunt'n*
Welby, Sir Chas. G. E. (*Notts*)
Williams Rt Hn J Powell- (*Birm*
Willoughby de Eresby, Lord
Wills, Sir Frederick
Wilson, A. S. (*York, E. R.*)
Wilson John (*Glasgow*)
Wilson-Todd, W. H. (*Yorks.*)
Worsley-Taylor, Hry. Wilson
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Young, Samuel

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Mr. Fellowes.

NOES.

Asher, Alexander
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Asquith, Rt. Hon. Herbt. Hy.
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Beaumont, Wentworth C. B.
Black, Alexander William
Brand, Hon. Arthur G.
Brown, Geo. M. (*Edinburgh*)
Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Burt, Thomas
Buxton, Sydney Charles
Caldwell, James
Cameron, Robert
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H
Corbett, A. Cameron (*Glasg.*)
Craig, Robert Hunter (*Lanark*
Crooks, William
Davies, Alfred (*Carmarthen*)
Davies, M. Vaughan (*Cardign*
Douglas, Charles M. (*Lanark*)
Duncan, J. Hastings
Dunn, Sir William
Edwards, Frank
Elibank, Master of
Ellis, John Edward
Emmott, Alfred
Evans, Sir F. H. (*Maidstone*)
Evans, Saml. T. (*Glamorgan*)
Farquharson, Dr. Robert
Fenwick, Charles
Ferguson, R. C. Munro (*Leith*
Foster, Sir Walter (*Derby Co.*
Furness, Sir Christopher
Grey, Rt. Hn. Sir E. (*Berwick*
Harmsworth, R. Leicester
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Chas. Seale-
Hayter, Rt Hon Sir Arthur D.
Hobhouse, C. E. H. (*Bristl, E*
Horniman, Frederick John
Hutchinson, Dr. Charles Fredk.
Jones, D. Brynmor (*Swansea*)
Jones, Wm. (*Carnarvonshire*)
Langley, Batty
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (*Cornwall*)
Leese, Sir Jos. F. (*Accrington*)
Leigh, Sir Joseph
Leng, Sir John
M'Crae, George
Mappin, Sir Fredk. Thorpe
Markham, Arthur Basil
Mellor, Rt. Hn. John William
Morgan, J. Lloyd (*Carmarthen*)
Morley, Rt. Hn. John (*Montrose*
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Palmer, Sir Charles M (*Durham*
Partington, Oswald
Paulton, James Mellor
Philipps, John Wynford
Pirie, Duncan V.
Price, Robert John
Reid, Sir R. Threshie (*Dumfries*)
Robertson, Edmund (*Dundee*)
Robson, William Snowdon
Russell, T. W.
Samuel, Herbt. L. (*Cleveland*)
Sinclair, John (*Forfarshire*)
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Spencer, Rt. Hn. C R (*Northants*
Taylor, Theodore C. (*Radcliffe*)
Tennant, Harold John
Thomas, A. (*Carmarthen, E.*)
Thomas, Sir A. (*Glam., E.*)
Thomas, David A. (*Merthyr*)
Thomson, F. W. (*York, W. R.*)
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Walton, Joseph (*Barnsley*)
Warner, Thos. Courtenay T.
Wason, E. (*Clackmannan*)
Wason, J. Cathcart (*Orkney*
Weir, James Galloway
White, Luke (*York, E. R.*)
Whiteley, G. (*York, W. R.*)
Whitley, J. H. (*Halifax*)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Wilson, Chas. H. (*Hull, W.*)
Wilson, John (*Falkirk*)
Woodhouse, Sir J T (*Huddersf'd*
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Crombie and Mr. Wallace.

SIR ROBERT REID moved as an Amendment—

> "Clause 2, page 1, line 13, after 'royal,' insert 'or.'"

The purport of his Amendment was to preserve to Royal and Parliamentary burghs the same powers in regard to licences which they now enjoyed. All the Royal burghs in Scotland had, from the earliest times since licensing was known, had the privilege of their own magistrates being the licensing authority. The Bill proposed that that privilege should be entirely destroyed in burghs with less than 7,000 of population. The Lord Advocate had an Amendment on the Paper to substitute 4,000 for 7,000, but he thought the law should remain as it had always been. The fact that it had always been so, might fairly be urged as a reason for continuing it, unless there was a substantial or fair-reasoned ground against the continuance. Could it be shown that these powers had been abused in the Royal burghs? He did not understand that that was so. The only observation which the Lord Advocate had, in the Committee upstairs, made against his proposal was, that it was supported by hon.

Members who had some of these burghs in their constituencies. To make an observation of that kind was to strike at the root of all representative government. He could say for his own constituency that he had never heard of any suggestion of any impropriety being committed by the magistrates in any of these burghs, nor had he ever heard of any gentleman who had made such a complaint. He had been subjected to no pressure in this matter; in fact, he had had only one communication from his constituency. He said deliberately that if a case could be made out that these powers had been abused in the past, or were likely to be abused in the future, he would not vote to maintain things as they were. He attached to his argument another consideration. He believed in small licensing districts; they were, he contended, most effective; for in great districts they required to depend on inspectors and the like.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 1, line 13, after the word 'royal,' to insert the word 'or:'"—(*Sir Robert Reid.*)

Question put, "That the word 'or' be there inserted in the Bill."

The EARL OF DALKEITH (Roxburgh) said he hoped the Lord Advocate would give a more favourable consideration to this Amendment than to the last. There was a great difference between now and when the matter was discussed in Committee upstairs. At that time there was a provision restricting licensing Courts to burghs containing a population of, or exceeding, 7,000, but the Lord Advocate had put down an Amendment changing 7,000 to 4,000. Why the right hon. Gentleman arrived at that particular figure he did not know. He quite admitted that there might be some reason against continuing the powers to very small burghs. He certainly would prefer the Amendment of his hon. and learned friend; but if the Lord Advocate could not accept that, he hoped he would be able to accept another Amendment.

MR. A. GRAHAM MURRAY said he hoped that they had now arrived at the end of a very long discussion. The hon. and learned Member who moved the Amendment knew very well that the scheme of the Bill, as introduced, was to have licensing districts of a certain acknowledged size. He was entirely against the hon. and learned Member in his preference for small licensing districts. He did not think that anything was to be gained by having them. If there was to be any change, he thought the Government would sympathise more with the Amendment of the hon. Member for Leith Burghs raising the standard, rather than with the Amendment of the hon. and learned Member. They, however, thought that, having regard to the circumstances of the country, that would be going too far. They selected a population basis of 7,000 because that figure had been already employed in various other departments of local government. He would remind the hon. and learned Member that although population was a fair test of the size of a town, it was no test as regarded the size of a country district, because where there was a sparse population there might be a great extent of country. He himself preferred the original proposal in the Bill; but a great deal of pressure from hon. Members on both sides of the House was brought to bear on the Government to give at least some consideration to these ancient burghs which had had in the past a licensing authority. He congratulated the hon. and learned Member for Dumfries on the fact that the discussion upstairs and in the House had developed in him a latent conservatism which at some future date might be of great service to the country at large. He had most carefully considered the matter; and the Amendment which stood in his name represented the whole length he was able to go on behalf of the Government. In the case of Royal and Parliamentary burghs he was prepared to reduce the limit to 4,000; and beyond that he really could not go. He was against the hon. and learned Member in his predilection for small areas. He would not say anything about corruption; but the statistics as to the number of licences granted in small areas certainly threw a doubt as to whether it was not better to have larger areas, and consequently a larger amount of public opinion.

SIR ROBERT REID said that according to the representations which he had received it was the county magistrates that prevented the smaller burghs reducing the number of public houses in their areas.

MR. A. GRAHAM MURRAY said that was a matter of individual fact on which he could not, at the moment, give an answer one way or the other. It was not only his opinion, but the opinion of many others, that they would secure a better policy by having larger areas. The determination of the Government must be taken to be the Amendment which stood in his name, which proposed to retain the 7,000 limit as regarded burghs in general while reducing it in the case of Royal and Parliamentary burghs to 4,000.

MR. ASHER (Elgin Burghs) said he would support the Amendment of his hon. and learned friend. No doubt the Amendment raised a question of considerable principle. The Lord Advocate had announced that he was prepared to reduce the limit in the case of Royal and Parliamentary burghs to 4,000; and he tendered his thanks for that. But the Amendment raised the general question as to whether there should be any population limit at all in regard to licensing. He supported the Amendment because, in his opinion, population had nothing to do with the matter. The proper test was whether a community, existing as a unit of local administration, with the power of regulating its own affairs in regard to local matters such as taxation, water supply, gas and everything connected with the social affairs of the community, should be deprived of the power of regulating the number of public houses in its own area. He had heard no intelligible reason assigned as to why such a community should or should not have that power according to a population basis. If experience had shown that these communities had abused their power, that would be an excellent reason for withdrawing it from them; but it was conceded on all hands that nothing could be said against the manner in which they had exercised their power in the past. The proposal was a mere arbitrary rule. It was said that for the administration of the Contagious Diseases Acts and the police, large areas were found to be more convenient; but that did not apply in the matter of licences. The question was whether an outside authority should be brought in for the purpose of controlling the number of licensed houses in a particular burgh. Burghs which existed as units of administration should be allowed to control the matter in the future as in the past.

SIR MARK STEWART said that in his county there were several Royal burghs; and his experience of many years on the licensing bench was that they were anxious to keep at a fair limit the public houses within their precincts. Very often when the burgh magistrates refused to renew licences, they were afterwards granted by the county magistrates. Therefore, it was hardly fair that burghs which did their duty in the past should have their privileges taken away from them. He hoped the Lord Advocate had not said the last word in the matter. He would suggest to his hon. and learned friend to withdraw his Amendment, and to bring the matter to an issue on the Lord Advocate's Amendment.

MR. MUNRO FERGUSON said he was in favour of large areas, not because he impugned for a moment the purity of past administration on the part of smaller burghs, but because he wanted to clear the way for the abolition of the Appeal Courts, which were worse than useless. Again, if they had to give compensation, and that was a thing the House would have shortly to consider, it was much easier to deal with a large area than a small one. These were all very important conditions, because they must remember that the value of licences had grown considerably during the last ten years.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN said the view he took was that the consideration which ought to govern them in this matter was whether there was an adequate local knowledge of the circumstances and requirements of the burgh on the part of those who administered the licensing law. In all these small burghs the justices and town councils had complete control of all the public houses. They were going to take this particular department of licensing away from them, and he did not know why. They were to be superseded by some authority some considerable distance away, who had no adequate knowledge of the wishes and requirements of the inhabitants. For his part he would leave the whole of these licensing burghs the powers they possessed. He did not rest his argument on the question of dignity, though that ground might be very well be taken. Something was due, for instance, to such a small burgh as Culross, which was in his charge. It would not be difficult to make a very plausible argument in favour of Culross as having more largely affected the prosperity and influence of Scotland than any other place. What had given Scotland the advantage she possessed over the southern country. Some said it was her education, but really it had been the food. It was well-known that oatmeal produced strong, stalwart and intelligent men, and the Scotch lived upon oatmeal, and for many years the staple industry of Culross was the making of girdles, which he might explain had no relation whatever to the goddess Venus, and were no part of a lady's attire, but were those round iron plates which were used for toasting oaten cakes upon. Yet the Lord Advocate was going to take away from this ancient burgh the little power it had to control its own liquor traffic. He did not, however, take that ground; he went upon the other ground altogether of local knowledge and local interest. He thought it was unfortunate to take away from these little burghs the local powers they had never misused, and he did not see that anybody could be benefited by its being done.

Mr. ASQUITH said he was also bound to join in this appeal. The county of Fife, as was well known, had a larger number of Royal burghs than any other county in Scotland. They were mostly represented by an hon. Member whom he saw sitting opposite. The small residue he represented himself. He did not think they had to apologise in any way for putting forward the case of those burghs, which by this Bill were going to be deprived of the powers they had enjoyed for so many years, and which they had never misused. It had never been argued for a moment that they had ever misused their powers, and he thought this clause was utterly illogical and from the point of view of administration totally incomprehensible, because while they retained to these burghs administrative powers in every other case they took away from them the power of licensing, a power in which local knowledge was absolutely requisite. He looked upon this as a most retrograde step.

Sir J. FERGUSSON said the chief argument for not leaving the licensing question in the hands of these smaller burghs was that they would be carried out by larger and more responsible bodies less subject to local influence.

Captain SINCLAIR could not see any reason for drawing a distinction between Royal and other burghs in this matter. Population was a wrong basis to go upon; it was continually changing, and whether it was a hundred or so below or above a certain limit could make no radical difference in the quality of the administration. The effect of the clause would be to deprive self-governing communities of popular rights and privileges which they now enjoyed. If the Bill really secured popular representative control of licensing he would not press his objection so strongly, but many communities which at present had control of their streets, gas, and water, and possessed police Courts in which convictions for licensing offences could be secured, would be unable to grant licences, and that did not appear to be a logical position. The people resident in police burghs were not distinguishable from those in Royal or Parliamentary burghs, and this curtailment of popular rights and privileges was a retrograde step against which he desired to enter a strong protest.

Mr. EUGENE WASON (Clackmannan and Kinross) supported the Amendment, and contended that it would be a great hardship to take away privileges which had been so long enjoyed. Any concession made to the Royal and Parliamentary burghs ought equally to be made in the case of police burghs.

MR. BUCHANAN said that, while the Amendment he had placed on the Paper was more logical than the one under discussion, inasmuch as it really rested on a principle, yet he should certainly support his hon. and learned friend. Everything possible ought to be done to promote the independence of burghs, whether Royal or police. Not only was he opposed to the taking away of privileges which had been enjoyed and exercised without suggestion of misuse for so many years, but he was in favour of extending like powers to similar burghs throughout Scotland. The best expression of democratic government was to be found in the burghs of Scotland, and more authority ought to be given instead of that at present possessed being taken away. He was in favour of the authorities being given the powers, and they then could be held responsible for the condition of their burghs.

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 97, Noes, 226. (Division List No. 146.)

AYES.

Asher, Alexander
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Asquith, Rt. Hon. Herbt. Hy.
Baldwin, Alfred
Balfour, Capt. C. B. (*Hornsey*
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Beaumont, Wentworth C. B.
Black, Alexander William.
Bolton, Thomas Dolling
Brand, Hon. Arthur G.
Brigg, John
Brown, Geo. M. (*Edinburgh*)
Brunner, Sir John Tomlinson
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Burt, Thomas
Buxton, Sydney Charles
Caldwell, James
Cameron, Robert
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Corbett, A. Cameron (*Glasg.*)
Craig, Robert Hunter (*Lanark*)
Crooks William
Davies, Alfred (*Carmarthen*)
Davies, M. Vaughan- (*Cardign*
Duncan, J. Hastings
Dunn, Sir William
Edwards, Frank
Elibank, Master of
Ellis, John Edward
Emmott, Alfred
Evans, Sir F. H. (*Maidstone*)
Evans, Saml. T. (*Glamorgan*)
Farquharson, Dr. Robert
Fenwick, Charles

Foster, Sir Walter (*Derby Co.*
Furness, Sir Christopher
Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herbert J.
Gordon, Hn. J. E. (*Elgin & Nrn*
Grey, Rt. Hn. Sir E. (*Berwick*
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Hardie, J. Keir (*Merthyr Tyd*
Harmsworth, R. Leicester
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Charles Seale-Hayter, Rt. Hon. Sir Arthur D.
Hobhouse, C. E. H. (*Bristl, E*
Horniman, Frederick John
Hutchinson, Dr. Charles Fredk.
Joicey, Sir James
Jones, David Brynmor (*Swansea*
Jones, W. (*Carnarvonshire*)
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (*Cornwall*)
Leese, Sir Jos. F. (*Accrington*)
Leigh, Sir Joseph
Leng, Sir John
Leveson-Gower, Fredk. N. S.
Lloyd-George, David
M'Arthur, William (*Cornwall*
M'Crae, George
Mappin, Sir Fredk. Thorpe
Markham, Arthur Basil
Maxwell, Rt Hn Sir H. E (*Wigt'n*
Morgan, J. Lloyd (*Carmarthen*)
Morley, Rt. Hn. John (*Montrose*
Palmer, Sir C. M. (*Durham*)
Partington, Oswald
Paulton, James Mellor
Philipps, John Wynford

Pirie, Duncan V.
Price, Robert John
Robertson, Edmund (*Dundee*)
Robson, William Snowdon
Russell, T. W.
Shaw, Charles Edw. (*Stafford*)
Sinclair, John (*Forfarshire*)
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Stewart, Sir M. J. M'Taggart
Taylor, Theodore C. (*Radcliffe*)
Thomas, Sir A. (*Glam., E.*)
Thomas, F. Freeman (*Hastings*)
Thomson, F. W. (*York, W. R.*)
Tomkinson, James
Toulmin, George
Ure, Alexander
Wallace, Robert
Walton, Joseph (*Barnsley*)
Warner, Thos. Courtenay T.
Wason, Eugene (*Clackmannan*
Wason, J. Cathcart (*Orkney*)
Weir, James Galloway
White, Luke (*York, E.R.*)
Whiteley, G. (*York, W. R.*)
Whitley, J. H. (*Halifax*)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Wilson, Chas. H. (*Hull, W.*)
Woodhouse, Sir J. T (*Huddersf'd*
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Sir Robert Reid and Earl of Dalkeith

NOES.

Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Arrol, Sir William
Atkinson, Right Hon. John
Aubrey-Fletcher, Rt. Hon. Sir H
Bagot, Capt. Josceline FitzRoy
Bailey, James (*Walworth*)
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Baird, John George Alexander
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J. (*Man'r*
Balfour, Rt Hn Gerald W (*Leeds*)
Balfour, Kenneth R. (*Christch*
Banbury, Sir Frederick George

Bartley, Sir George C. T.
Bathurst, Hon. Allen Benj.
Beckett, Ernest William
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bigwood, James
Bill, Charles
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
Bowles, Col. Henry F. (*Midd'x*)
Brassey, Albert
Bull, William James
Burke, E. Haviland
Butcher, John George
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edward H.
Cavendish, R. F. (*N. Lancs.*)
Cavendish, V. C. W. (*Derbysh.*

Cayzer, Sir Charles William
Cecil, Evelyn (*Aston Manor*)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (*Greenwich*)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hn. J A (*Worc*
Chapman, Edward
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Clive, Captain Percy A.
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Coddington, Sir William
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Colston, Chas. Edw H. Athole
Cook, Sir Frederick Lucas
Cox, Irwin Edwd. Bainbridge
Cranborne, Viscount
Cross, H. Shepherd (*Bolton*)
Crossley, Sir Savile

Cubitt, Hon. Henry
Cullinan, J.
Denny, Colonel
Dickinson, Robert Edmond
Dickson, Charles Scott
Digby, John K. D. Wingfield-
Dimsdale, Rt. Hn. Sir Joseph C.
Dixon-Hartland, Sir F. Dixon
Donelan, Captain A.
Doogan, P. C.
Dorington, Rt. Hon. Sir J. E.
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers
Douglas, Charles M. (*Lanark*)
Dyke, Rt. Hon. Sir Wm. Hart
Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas
Faber, George Denison (*York*)
Fardell, Sir T. George
Ferguson, R. C. Munro (*Leith*)
Fergusson, Rt Hn Sir J. (*Manc'r*
Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Firbank, Sir Joseph Thomas
Fisher, William Hayes
FitzGerald, Sir Robt. Penrose
Flower, Ernest
Flynn, James Christopher
Forster, Henry William
Foster, Philip S. (*Warwick, S. W*
Fyler, John Arthur
Galloway, William Johnson
Gardner, Ernest
Garfit, William
Gibbs, Hn A. G. H (*City of Lond*
Gibbs, Hn. Vicary (*St. Albans*
Gore, Hn G. R. C. Ormsby-(*Salop*
Gore, Hn. S. F. Ormsby- (*Linc*
Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
Goschen, Hon. Geo. Joachim
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Greene, W. Raymond (*Cambs*
Gretton, John
Groves, James Grimble
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Gunter, Sir Robert
Halsey, Rt. Hon. Thomas F.
Hamilton, Rt Hn Ld. G (*Midx*
Hamilton, Marq. of (*Londondy*
Harris, Frederick Leverton
Hatch, Ernest Frederick G.
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Heath, Arthur H. (*Hanley*)
Heath, James (*Staffs., N. W.*)
Hogg, Lindsay
Houldsworth, Sir Wm. Henry
Howard, John (*Kent, Faversh'm*
Jeffreys, Rt. Hn. Arthur Fred
Jessel, Capt. Herbert Merton
Johnstone, Heywood
Kemp, Lieut.-Colonel George
Kenyon-Slaney, Col. W. (*Salop*
Kerr, John
King, Sir Henry Seymour
Knowles, Lees
Lambton, Hon. Fredk. Wm.
Law, Andrew Bonar (*Glasgow*
Lawrence, Wm. F. (*Liverpool*
Lawson, John Grant (*Yorks, N. R*
Lees, Sir Elliott (*Birkenhead*)
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Lockwood, Lieut.-Col. A. R.
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Long, Col. Chas. W. (*Evesham*
Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (*Bristol, S.*
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lowe, Francis William
Lowther, C. (*Cumb. Eskdale*)
Lowther, Rt. Hon. Jas. (*Kent*)
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas, Col. Francis (*Lowestoft*
Lucas, Reg'ld J. (*Portsmouth*)
Macdona, John Cumming
M'Arthur, Charles (*Liverpool*)
M'Iver, Sir Lewis (*Edinburgh W*
M'Killop, Jas. (*Stirlingshire*)
M'Killop, W. (*Sligo, North*)
Manners, Lord Cecil
Martin, Richard Biddulph
Meysey-Thompson, Sir H. M.
Mitchell, William (*Burnley*)
Molesworth, Sir Lewis
Morgan, D. J. (*Walthamstow*)
Morgan, Hn. F. (*Monm'thsh.*)
Morrison, James Archibald
Morton, Arthur H. Aylmer
Mount, William Arthur
Mowbray, Sir Robt. Gray C.
Muntz, Sir Philip A.
Murray, Rt Hn A Graham (*Bute*
Murray, Charles J. (*Coventry*)
Myers, William Henry
Nolan, Col. John P. (*Galway, N.*
O'Brien, P. J. (*Tipperary, N.*)
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, Conor (*Mayo, N.*)
Orr-Ewing, Charles Lindsay
Parkes, Ebenezer
Pease, H. Pike (*Darlington*)
Peel, Hn. Wm. R. Wellesley
Pemberton, John S. G.
Percy, Earl
Pilkington, Colonel Richard
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Plummer, Walter R.
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Pretyman, Ernest George
Purvis, Robert
Randles, John S.
Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
Rattigan, Sir William Henry
Reid, James (*Greenock*)
Remnant, Jas. Farquharson
Renshaw, Sir Charles Bine
Ridley, Hon. M. W. (*Stalybridge*
Ritchie, Rt. Hn. C. Thomson
Roberts, Samuel (*Sheffield*)
Robertson, H. (*Hackney*)
Roche, John
Rolleston, Sir John F. L.
Round, Rt. Hon. James
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford
Sadler, Col. Saml. Alexander
Samuel, Harry S. (*Limehouse*)
Sandys, Lt.-Col. Thos. Myles
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Seely, Chas. Hilton (*Lincoln*)
Shaw-Stewart, M. H. (*Renfrew*)
Simeon, Sir Barrington
Sinclair, Louis (*Romford*)
Smith, Abel H. (*Hertford, E.*)
Smith, Jas. Parker (*Lanarks.*,
Smith, Hn. W. F. D. (*Strand*)
Spear, John Ward
Stanley, Edw. Jas. (*Somerset*)
Stanley, Lord (*Lancs.*)
Stirling-Maxwell, Sir Jn. M.
Stroyan, John
Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
Sturt, Hn. Humphrey Napier
Talbot, Lord E. (*Chichester*)
Tennant, Harold John
Thornton, Percy M.
Tollemache, Henry James
Tritton, Charles Ernest
Valentia, Viscount
Vincent, Sir Edgar (*Exeter*)
Walrond, Rt. Hon. Sir W. H.
Wanklyn, James Leslie
Warde, Colonel C. E.
Webb, Col. William George
Welby, Lt.-Col A. C. E. (*Taunt'n*
Welby, Sir Chas. G. E. (*Notts*)
Whiteley, H. (*Ashton-u.-Lyne*)
Whitmore, Charles Algernon
Williams, Rt Hn J Powell-(*Birm*
Willoughby de Eresby, Lord
Wills, Sir Frederick
Wilson, A. Stanley (*York, E. R.*)
Wilson, John (*Falkirk*)
Wilson, John (*Glasgow*)
Wilson-Todd, W. H. (*Yorks.*)
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Worsley-Taylor, Hry. Wilson
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Yerburgh, Robt. Armstrong
Young, Samuel

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Mr. Fellowes.

MR. EUGENE WASON said that by his Amendment he was simply pleading for the same treatment to be meted out to the police burghs as to the Royal and Parliamentary burghs. Although the right hon. Gentleman had done something for the Royal and Parliamentary burghs, up to the present he had done nothing for the police burghs. There were forty-six Royal burghs, and ten of them would have the power they already possessed and would retain the privilege of being their own licensing authority. Of the police burghs exempted there were ninety-nine, and if his Amendment were carried it would give in addition twenty-four police burghs, or practically the very same for the police burghs which the Lord Advocate by his Amendment had given to the Royal and Parliamentary burghs. He had received a considerable number of letters on this subject and he would have liked to make the number much larger. As the Lord Advocate met them fairly upstairs he thought he would not be disposed to object to treating these burghs in the same way as the Royal and Parliamentary burghs.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 1, line 14, to leave out the word 'seven,' and insert the word 'four.'—(*Mr. Eugene Wason.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'seven' stand part of the Bill."

MR. A. GRAHAM MURRAY said his intention, and the intention of the Bill, certainly was to make no distinction, and accordingly they made the number of 7,000 apply to both. As he had already explained in reply to the very widely expressed wish that he should give something to the old vested interest in burghs that had licensing authorities in the old days, he had given way in that case. Police burghs had no rights in the old days.

MR. BLACK (Banffshire) said he should support the Amendment of his hon. friend. He wished to point out to the Lord Advocate that in the case of county districts he had already accepted an Amendment reducing the number considerably below seven.

MR. A. GRAHAM MURRAY said he had stated many times that he had not accepted that Amendment.

MR. BLACK asked if it was the proposal of the Government to reverse that Amendment?

MR. A. GRAHAM MURRAY replied that the proposals of the Government were on the Paper.

MR. BLACK said that in that case the Bill stood as amended, and the proposal was to allow county districts and Royal burghs this privilege and to exclude police burghs. This was not reasonable, and he hoped his hon. friend would press his Amendment to a division.

MR. PARKER SMITH said there would be very considerable feeling upon this point on the part of the smaller burghs if they were left out. If the Lord Advocate was willing to reduce to 5,000 to a limited number he thought it would go a very long way towards meeting the views of those burghs.

*MR. McCRAE said he hoped the Lord Advocate would favourably receive this Amendment. He had great respect for the Royal burghs, but for administrative purposes he did not see why they should have a population of 4,000 and police or Parliamentary burghs should be excluded unless they had a population of 7,000. For the sake of uniformity he thought the proper course to take was to make the number 4,000 for all burghs.

MR. CROMBIE said he had an Amendment on the Paper which raised this question, but if this Amendment were carried he would probably be out of order in moving it. Unlike many of his hon. friends, he was not so favourable to small constituencies, but he thought it was most invidious to make a distinction in this matter. Many of these smaller constituencies were quite as important as Royal burghs, and quite as capable of having a licensing authority as any Royal burgh of the same size.

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 220; Noes, 95. (Division List, No. 147.)

AYES.

Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Anstruther, H. T.
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Arrol, Sir William
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Aubrey-Fletcher, Rt. Hn. Sir H.
Bagot, Capt. Josceline FitzRoy
Bailey, James (*Walworth*)
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Baird, John George Alexander
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J. (*Man'r*
Balfour, Capt. C. B. (*Hornsey*
Balfour, Rt. Hn. G. W. (*Leeds*
Balfour, Kenneth R. (*Christch*
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Bathurst, Hon. Allen Benj.
Beckett, Ernest William
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.

Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.
Bigwood, James
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith
Brassey, Albert
Bull, William James
Burke, E. Haviland
Butcher, John George
Campbell, Rt Hn J A (*Glasg.*)
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Cavendish, R. F. (*N. Lancs.*)
Cavendish, V C W (*Derbysh.*)
Cayzer, Sir Charles William
Cecil, Evelyn (*Aston Manor*)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (*Greenwich*)
Chamberlain, Rt.Hn.J A (*Worc*
Chapman, Edward
Clive, Captain Percy A.
Cochrane, Hon. T. H. A. E.
Coddington, Sir William
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Colston, Chas. Edw H. Athole
Cook, Sir Frederick Lucas
Corbett, A. Cameron (*Glasg.*)
Cox, Irwin Edw. Bainbridge
Cranborne, Viscount
Cross, H. Shepherd (*Bolton*)
Crossley, Sir Savile
Cubitt, Hon. Henry
Denny, Colonel
Dewar, Sir T. R. (*Tr. Haml'ts*
Dickinson, Robert Edmond
Dickson, Charles Scott
Digby, John K. D. Wingfield-
Dimsdale, Rt. Hon. Sir Jos. C.
Dixon-Hartland, Sir F. Dixon
Doogan, P. C.
Dorington, Rt. Hon. Sir J. E.
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers
Duke, Henry Edward
Dyke, Rt. Hn. Sir William Hart
Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas
Faber, George Denison (*York*)
Fardell, Sir T. George
Ferguson, R. C. Munro (*Leith*
Fergusson, Rt Hn. Sir J. (*Man'r*
Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Firbank, Sir Joseph Thomas
Fisher, William Hayes
FitzGerald, Sir Robt. Penrose
Flower, Ernest
Forster, Henry William
Foster, P. S. (*Warwick, S.W.*
Fyler, John Arthur
Galloway, William Johnson
Gardner, Ernest
Garfit, William
Godson, Sir Augustus Fredk.
Gore, HnG.R.C.Ormsby- (*Salop*
Gore, Hon.S.F.Ormsby- (*Lincs.*
Goschen, Hon. Geo. Joachim
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Greene, W. Raymond (*Cambs*
Gretton, John
Groves, James Grimble
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Gunter, Sir Robert
Guthrie, Walter Murray
Halsey, Rt. Hon. Thomas F.
Hamilton, Rt. Hn. Ld. G. (*Midx.*
Hamilton, Marq. of (*Londondy*
Harris, Frederick Leverton
Hatch, Ernest Frederick G.
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Heath, Arthur H. (*Hanley*)
Heath, James (*Staffs., N. W.*)
Hogg, Lindsay
Houldsworth, Sir Wm. Henry
Howard, Jno (*Kent, Faver'hm*
Jeffreys, Rt. Hn. Arthur Fred
Jessel, Capt. Herbert Merton
Kemp, Lieut.-Colonel George
Kenyon-Slaney, Col. W. (*Salop*
Kerr, John
King, Sir Henry Seymour
Knowles, Lees
Lambton, Hon. Fredk. Wm.
Law, Andrew Bonar (*Glasgow*
Lawrence, Wm. F. (*Liverpool*
Lawson, John Grant (*Yorks, N R*
Lees, Sir Elliott (*Birkenhead*)
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leveson-Gower, Frederick N. S.
Lockwood, Lieut.-Col. A. R.
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Long, Col. Chas. W. (*Evesham*
Long, Rt. Hn. W. (*Bristol, S.*
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lowe, Francis William
Lowther, C. (*Cumb. Eskdale*)
Lowther, Rt. Hon. Jas. (*Kent*
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas, Col. Francis (*Lowestoft*
Lucas, Reg'ld J. (*Portsmouth*)
Macdona, John Cumming
M'Arthur, Charles (*Liverpool*)
M'Iver, Sir Lewis (*Edinburgh W*
M'Killop, Jas. (*Stirlingshire*)
M'Killop, W. (*Sligo, North*)
Malcolm, Ian
Manners, Lord Cecil
Martin, Richard Biddulph
Maxwell, Rt Hn Sir H. E. (*Wigt'n*
Meysey-Thompson, Sir H. M.
Mitchell, William (*Burnley*)
Molesworth, Sir Lewis
Morgan, D. J. (*Walthamstow*)
Morgan, Hn. F. (*Monm'thsh.*)
Morrison, James Archibald
Morton, Arthur H. Aylmer
Mount, William Arthur
Mowbray, Sir Robert Gray C.
Murray, Rt Hn A. Graham (*Bute*
Murray, Charles J. (*Coventry*)
Myers, William Henry
Nolan, Col. John P. (*Galway, N.*
O'Brien, P. J. (*Tipperary, N.*)
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, Conor (*Mayo, N.*)
Orr-Ewing, Charles Lindsay
Parkes, Ebenezer
Pease, Herbert Pike (*Darlingt'n*
Peel, Hn Wm. Robert Wellesley
Pemberton, John S. G.
Percy, Earl
Pilkington, Colonel Richard
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Plummer, Walter R.
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Pretyman, Ernest George
Purvis, Robert
Randles, John S.
Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
Rattigan, Sir William Henry
Redmond, Jn. E. (*Waterford*)
Reid, James (*Greenock*)
Remnant, Jas. Farquharson
Ridley, Hon. M. W (*Stalybridge*
Ritchie, Rt. Hn. C. Thomson
Roberts, Samuel (*Sheffield*)
Robertson, Herbert (*Hackney*)
Rolleston, Sir John F. L.
Round, Rt. Hon. James
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford-
Sadler, Col. Samuel Alexander
Samuel, Harry S. (*Limehouse*)
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Shaw-Stewart, M. H. (*Renfrew*)
Simeon, Sir Barrington
Sinclair, Louis (*Romford*)
Smith, Abel H. (*Hertford, E.*)
Smith, Hn. W. F. D. (*Strand*)
Spear, John Ward
Stanley, Edward Jas. (*Somerset*)
Stanley, Lord (*Lancs.*)
Stewart, Sir M. J. M'Taggart
Stirling-Maxwell, Sir Jn. M.
Stroyan, John
Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
Talbot, Lord E. (*Chichester*)
Taylor, Austin (*East Toxteth*)
Thornton, Percy M.
Tollemache, Henry James
Tritton, Charles Ernest
Ure, Alexander
Valentia, Viscount
Vincent, Sir Edgar (*Exeter*)
Walrond, Rt. Hon. Sir W. H.
Wanklyn, James Leslie
Warde, Colonel C. E.
Webb, Col. William George
Welby, Lt-Col A. C. E. (*Taunton*
Welby, Sir Chas. G. E. (*Notts*)
Whiteley, H. (*Ashton-u.-Lyne*)
Whitmore, Charles Algernon
Willoughby de Eresby, Lord
Wills, Sir Frederick
Wilson, John (*Falkirk*)
Wilson, John (*Glasgow*)
Wilson-Todd, W. H. (*Yorks.*)
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Worsley-Taylor, Hry. Wilson
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart
Yerburgh, Robt. Armstrong
Young, Samuel

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Mr. Fellowes.

NOES.

Allen, Chas. P. (*Glos., Stroud*)
Asher, Alexander
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Bolton, Thomas Dolling
Brand, Hon. Arthur G.
Brigg, John
Brown, Geo. M. (*Edinburgh*)
Brunner, Sir John Tomlinson
Bryce, Right Hon. James
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Burt, Thomas
Buxton, Sydney Charles

Caldwell, James
Cameron, Robert
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H
Craig, Robert Hunter (*Lanark*
Crombie, John William
Crooks, William
Dalkeith, Earl of
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, Alfred (*Carmarthen*)
Davies, M. Vaughan (*Cardig'n*
Douglas, Charles M. (*Lanark*)
Duncan, J. Hastings
Dunn, Sir William
Edwards, Frank
Elibank, Master of
Ellis, John Edward
Emmott, Alfred
Evans, Saml. T. (*Glamorgan*)
Farquharson, Dr. Robert
Fenwick, Charles
Foster, Sir Walter (*Derby Co.*
Furness, Sir Christopher
Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herbert J.
Gordon, Hon. J. E. (*Elgin&Nrn*
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Hardie, J. Keir (*Merthyr Tyd*
Harmsworth, R. Leicester
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Charles Seale-
Hayter, Rt. Hon Sir Arthur D
Hobhouse, C. E. H. (*Bristl, E*
Horniman, Frederick John
Hutchinson, Dr. Charles Fredk.
Joicey, Sir James
Jones, David B. (*Swansea*)
Jones, Wm. (*Carnarvonshire*)
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (*Cornwall*)
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leese, Sir Jos. F. (*Accrington*)
Leigh, Sir Joseph
Leng, Sir John
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, David
M'Arthur, William (*Cornwall*)
M'Crae, George
Mappin, Sir Fredk. Thorpe
Markham, Arthur Basil
Morgan, J. Lloyd (*Carmarthen*)
Newnes, Sir George
Palmer Sir C. M. (*Durham*)
Partington, Oswald
Philipps, John Wynford
Pirie, Duncan V.
Price, Robert John
Reid, Sir R. Threshie (*Dumfries*)
Renshaw, Sir Charles Bine
Robertson, Edmund (*Dundee*)
Robson, William Snowdon
Russell, T. W.
Samuel, Herbert L. (*Cleveland*
Shaw, Charles Edw. (*Stafford*)
Sinclair, John (*Forfarshire*)
Smith, Jas. Parker (*Lanarks.*)
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Taylor, Theodore C. (*Radcliffe*)
Tennant, Harold John
Thomas, Sir A. (*Glam., E.*
Thomas, David Alfred (*Merthyr*
Thomas, F. Freeman (*Hastings*)
Thomson, F. W. (*York, W. R.*)
Tomkinson, James
Toulmin, George
Wallace, Robert
Walton, Joseph (*Barnsley*)
Wason, J. Cathcart (*Orkney*)
Weir, James Galloway
White, Luke (*York, E. R.*)
Whiteley, G. (*York, W. R.*)
Whitley, J. H. (*Halifax*)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Wilson, Chas. H. (*Hull, W.*)
Woodhouse, Sir J T (*Huddersf'd*
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
Mr. Eugene Wason and
Mr. Black.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 1, line 14, after the word 'thousand,' to insert the words 'and for each burgh containing a population under 7,000, but of or exceeding 4,000, the magistrates of which have power to grant certificates under the existing Acts.'"—(*The Lord Advocate.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted in the Bill."

MR. ASHER moved to amend the Amendment by inserting words with the object of meeting the case of burghs the population of which, at the date of the last census, was under 4,000, but which had surpassed 4,000 between that date and the date of the passing of the Act. In the case of burghs of 7,000 population, the point had been met by the second Schedule of the Act, but there was no opportunity of getting towns whose population had grown over 4,000 since the date of the last census, put in the same position. He made this Motion specially with reference to the Royal burgh of Inverurie, with the case of which, he thought, the Lord Advocate was familiar. Of late there had been very large railway works introduced there, which had largely increased the population, and there was no doubt the population was now nearer 5,000.

Amendment proposed to the proposed Amendment to the Bill—

"In line 2, after the word 'containing to insert the words 'at the date of the passing of this Act as proved to the satisfaction of the Secretary for Scotland.'"—(*Mr Asher.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted in the proposed Amendment to the Bill."

MR. A. GRAHAM MURRAY said he hoped the hon. and learned Member would not press his Amendment. He promised that in another place appropriate words would be inserted.

Amendment to the proposed Amendment to the Bill, by leave, withdrawn.

THE EARL of DALKEITH (Roxburgh) moved—

"In lines 2 and 3, leave out 'four thousand,' and insert 'two thousand.'"

He said that in his own constituency there were two burghs with a population of respectively 3,000 and 3,200 which had at present a licensing anthority, but which would be deprived of it under the clause. On the other hand there was a small district with a population of 1,800 which had never had a separate licensing authority, but would under the clause receive one. He thought that that really showed how very absurd these regulations were. He appealed to the right hon. and learned Gentleman to accept this Amendment. A considerable number of the towns which were being disfranchised, so far as licensing was concerned, were county towns, and more consideration should be given to them than had been done in the Bill.

Amendment proposed to the proposed Amendment to the Bill—

"In line 3, to leave out the word 'four' and insert the word 'two.'"—(*Earl of Dalkeith.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'four' stand part of the proposed Amendment to the Bill."

MR. A. GRAHAM MURRAY said he was sorry that it was not possible for him to go any further than he had done. In answer to his noble friend as to country districts receiving a licensing authority which had never had one before, he would point out that the Bill only stated that the County Councils might give a separate licensing authority to a district if they wished.

SIR ROBERT REID said that they did not want to obstruct the Bill, of course, but the position was this—a right which had existed for 400 years was taken away from these burghs, whereas the same right was being conferred on the population of 1,800 which had never had the right before, and which had no separate or corporate existence at all. There had been no argument on public grounds in favour of this being done, and he thought it was a revolting thing to do. He recommended the noble Lord to advise his friends in the Royal burghs that they were not likely to get justice from a Conservative Government in this matter, and that the only chance they had was to appeal to the House of Lords.

Question put, and agreed to.

Proposed words there inserted in the Bill.

MR. CHARLES DOUGLAS (Lanarkshire, N.W.) said that the declared policy of the Bill in respect to the country districts was that the County Council was to select and employ bodies for the purpose of administering licensing in the various districts. But no one would pretend that the magistrates in large towns were selected for the purpose of licensing. They became magistrates very largely by seniority in the Town Councils, and the question of their fitness for the duties of a licensing bench was not considered. He rather gathered that the Lord Advocate had been infected by his colleagues with the doctrine that the best way to get a thing done was to appoint a body for another purpose, and then hand over a new duty to it. At all events that was what was done under the present system. The magistrates were not necessarily the best qualified people, and, as a matter of fact, there were cases in which magistrates were actually legally disqualified for discharging the duty of a licensing authority. Cases had occurred in some small burghs in which there were only one or two magistrates who were not disqualified. The present system was not administratively good, and that was quite recognised by the magistrates themselves, for the proposed modification of it had the approval of the magistrates in large towns. Sometimes there was a wholly new bench of magistrates called upon to deal with licensing problems, who had had no previous experience of licensing work. Further, as from the nature of the case the magistrates knew that they would not have to deal with licensing business on more than two or three occasions, it was not to be expected that they would specially prepare themselves for dealing with these technical questions. If the work of licensing was to be efficiently done, it was desirable there should be greater continuity of administration, and a more permanent tribunal. An attempt had been made to do that in the Committee upstairs, and, for his part, if the Lord Advocate had been prepared to abide by the decision of the Committee to retain a certain proportion of the old magistrates, in addition to the existing magistrates, he would have been prepared to accept that as a compromise. The Committee upstairs did not adopt the plan he was now suggesting to the House, in view of its opinion that the object could be achieved by the Amendment made in the Bill, and which the Lord Advocate now proposed to delete. If the Lord Advocate insisted on restoring the Bill to its original condition, he would feel bound to press his Amendment, which he now moved.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 1, line 15, to leave out from the words 'consisting of,' to the word 'Provided,' in line 18, and insert the words 'a committee appointed by the town council from their own number in accordance with the scale contained in the first schedule annexed hereto.'"—(*Mr. Charles Douglas*) *instead thereof.*

Question proposed "That the words proposed to be left out to the word 'and' in line 16, stand part of the Bill."

MR. A. GRAHAM MURRAY said that the Amendment would turn the scheme of the Bill upside down; and he did not suppose that the hon. Member would think for a moment that he was going to accept it.

Question put, and agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 1, line 16, to leave out from the word 'being' to end of clause." — (*The Lord Advocate.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Bill."

MR. PARKER SMITH said he regretted much that the Lord Advocate had moved this Amendment deleting the portion of the clause which had been carried by a considerable majority of the Committee upstairs. What they wanted was the power of putting persons on the licensing authority who had had experience as magistrates, and who were still members of the town council. He thought that there was very serious danger of there being a lack of continuity of policy from the want of magistrates of experience, especially in smaller burghs. It was said it might lead to faddists coming in, but it would be far more likely to result in the man who had experience coming in, and who, through his experience had got rid of his fads. He was sorry the Lord Advocate proposed to go against this proposal, which generally received the support of the Committee, and he hoped some explanation of the reason would be given to the House.

Question put, and negatived.

Amendment agreed to.

MR. CHARLES DOUGLAS said the object of the Amendment he now proposed to move was to give the whole control of licences in counties to County Councils, unhindered by the justices, exactly as it was given in towns to town councils and the magistrates. They had had no explanation from the Lord Advocate of the reason why justices were retained. The right hon. Gentleman had not suggested that the work would be better done by retaining them. They were taking a great part of the licensing out of the justices' hands because they thought those gentlemen had not done their work properly, and that being so he thought it would be more reasonable to transfer the licensing, so far as the counties were concerned, bodily to the County Councils. They had taken away from a number of the small burghs the control of their licensing, and he had supported the right hon. Gentleman in that policy because he believed in enlarging the licensing areas. But it would be a very serious thing to take this licensing away from small burghs and hand it over to those who were neither representative of the interests of the County Councils nor the burghs. He begged to move.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 2, line 25, to leave out the words 'one half of.'"—(*Mr. Charles Douglas.*)

Question proposed, "That the words 'one half of' stand part of the Bill."

MR. A. GRAHAM MURRAY said many would remember that as the Bill originally stood the proportions were two-thirds and one-third. As a concession he agreed to one half in order that there should be an equal number. The simple answer to this Amendment was that the Government were not prepared to go the length the hon. Member desired. The Bill itself represented a compromise, and to that compromise he meant to stick.

MR. DALZIEL (Kirkcaldy Burghs) said he hoped the hon. Member would not be satisfied with the explanation of the Lord Advocate. He supported the hon. Member in this because he thought justices of the peace could get elected to the County Councils if they were the representative body they were said to be. The object of the Government ought to be to make this licensing body as representative as possible.

Mr. BLACK said the Lord Advocate had hardly discharged the onus which rested upon him in this this matter. The justices were chosen as the licensing authority in 1828 because in the towns the town councils which were elective bodies were given the right to elect the magistrates for this purpose. In the country there was no such elective body, and accordingly the legislature had no alternative but to nominate the only body existing, which was the justices of the peace. To day they had County Councils which were fully representative bodies qualified to exercise the same powers as the town councils or the burghs, why then should any distinction be drawn? Why should they not give the County Councils the same rights as those exercised by the burghs?

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 217; Noes, 86. (Division List No. 148.)

AYES.

Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Anstruther, H. T.
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Arrol, Sir William
Atkinson, Right Hon. John
Aubrey-Fletcher, Rt Hon. Sir H.
Bagot, Capt. Josceline FitzRoy
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Baird, John George Alexander
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J. (*Man'r.*
Balfour, Capt. C. B. (*Hornsey*)
Balfour, Rt. Hn. G. W. (*Leeds*
Balfour, Kenneth R. (*Christch*
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Bathurst, Hon. Allen Benj.
Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.
Bigwood, James
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
Brassy, Albert
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Bull, William James
Butcher, John George
Campbell, Rt Hn J A (*Glasg.*)
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Cavendish, R. F. (*N. Lancs.*)
Cavendish, V. C. W. (*Derbyshire*
Cayzer, Sir Charles William
Cecil, Evelyn (*Aston Manor*)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (*Greenwich*)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hn. J A. (*Worc*
Chapman, Edward
Clive, Captain Percy A.
Cochrane, Hon. T. H. A. E.
Coddington, Sir William
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Colston, Chas. Edw. H. Athole
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Cook, Sir Frederick Lucas
Corbett, A. Cameron (*Glasg.*)
Cox, Irwin Edward Bainbridge
Cranborne, Viscount
Cross, H. Shepherd (*Bolton*)
Crossley, Rt. Hon. Sir Savile
Cubitt, Hon. Henry
Cullinan, J.
Cust, Henry John C.
Dalkeith, Earl of
Denny, Colonel
Devlin, Joseph (*Kilkenny, N.*)
Dewar, Sir T. R. (*Tr. Haml'ts*
Dickinson, Robert Edmond
Dickson, Charles Scott
Digby, John K. D. Wingfield-
Dimsdale, Rt. Hon. Sir Joseph C.
Dixon-Hartland, Sir F. Dixon
Doogan, P. C.
Dorington, Rt. Hon. Sir J. E.
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers
Duke, Henry Edward
Dyke, Rt. Hon. Sir Wm. Hart
Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas
Faber, George Denison (*York*)
Fardell, Sir T. George
Fergusson, Rt Hn Sir J. (*Manc'r*
Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
FitzGerald, Sir Robert Penrose-
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Flower, Ernest
Flynn, James Christopher
Forster Henry William
Foster, Philip S. (*Warwick, S. W*
Fyler, John Arthur
Galloway, William Johnson
Gardner, Ernest
Garfit, William
Godson, Sir Augustus Frederick
Gordon Hn. J. E. (*Elgin&Nairn*
Gore, Hn G. R. C. Ormsby- (*Salop*
Gore, Hn. S. F. Ormsby- (*Linc*
Goschen, Hon. George Joachim
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Greene, W. Raymond (*Cambs*
Gretton, John
Greville, Hon. Ronald
Groves, James Grimble
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Gunter, Sir Robert
Guthrie, Walter Murray
Hall, Edward Marshall
Halsey, Rt. Hon. Thomas F.
Hambro, Charles Eric
Hamilton, Rt. Hn. Ld. G. (*Mid'x*
Hamilton, Marq. of (*Londondy*
Harris, Frederick Leverton
Hatch, Ernest Frederick G.
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Heath, James (*Staffs., N. W.*)
Hogg, Lindsay
Howard, Jno (*Kent, Faver'hm*
Jeffreys, Rt. Hn. Arthur Fred
Jessel, Capt. Herbert Merton
Kemp, Lieut.-Colonel George
Kenyon-Slaney, Col. W. (*Salop*
Kerr, John
Keswick, William
Kilbride, Denis
King, Sir Henry Seymour
Knowles, Lees
Law, Andrew Bonar (*Glasgow*)
Lawson, John Grant (*Yorks. NR*
Lees, Sir Elliot (*Birkenhead*)
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leveson-Gower, Frederick N. S.
Lockwood, Lieut.-Col. A. R.
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Long, Col. Charles W. (*Evesham*
Long, Rt. Hn. W. (*Bristol, S.*
Lowe, Francis William
Lowther, C. (*Cumb. Eskdale*)
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas, Col. Francis (*Lowestoft*
Lucas, Reg'ld J. (*Portsmouth*)
Macdona, John Cumming
M'Iver, Sir Lewis (*Edinb'rgh W*
M'Killop, Jas. (*Stirlingshire*)
M'Killop, W. (*Sligo, North*)
Manners, Lord Cecil
Martin, Richard Biddulph
Meysey-Thompson, Sir H. M.
Mitchell, William (*Burnley*)
Molesworth, Sir Lewis
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
Morgan, D. J. (*Walthamstow*)
Morgan, Hn. F. (*Monm'thsh.*)
Morrell, George Herbert
Morrison, James Archibald
Morton, Arthur H. Aylmer
Mount, William Arthur
Mowbray, Sir Robt. Gray C.

Mr. Dalziel.

Muntz, Sir Philip A.
Murray, RtHnA.Graham)*Bute*
Murray, Charles J. (*Coventry*)
Myers, William Henry
Nolan,Col.JohnP.(*Galway,N.*
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, Conor (*Mayo, N.*)
Orr-Ewing, Charles Lindsay
Pease, H. Pike (*Darlington*)
Peel, Hn. Wm. R. Wellesley
Penn, John
Percy, Earl
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Plummer, Walter R.
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Pretyman, Ernest George
Purvis, Robert
Randles, John S.
Ratcliff, R. F.
Rattigan, Sir William Henry
Redmond, Jn. E. (*Waterford*)
Reid, James (*Greenock*)
Remnant, Jas. Farquharson
Renshaw, Sir Charles Bine
Ridley,HonM.W.(*Stalybridge*)
Ritchie,Rt.Hn.Chas.Thomson
Roberts, Samuel (*Sheffield*)
Robertson, H. (*Hackney*)
Rolleston, Sir John F. L.
Round, Rt. Hon. James
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford-
Sadler, Col. Samuel Alexander
Samuel, Harry S. (*Limehouse*)
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Shaw-Stewart, M.H.(*Renfrew*)
Simeon, Sir Barrington
Sinclair, Louis (*Romford*)
Smith,JamesParker(*Lanarks.*)
Spear, John Ward
Stanley, Edw. Jas. (*Somerset*)
Stanley, Lord (*Lancs.*)
Stewart, Sir M. J. M'Taggart
Stirling-Maxwell, Sir Jn. M.
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Stroyan, John
Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
Talbot, Lord E. (*Chichester*)
Talbot,Rt.Hn.J.G.(*Oxf'dUniv*
Taylor, Austin (*East Toxteth*)
Tollemache, Henry James
Tritton, Charles Ernest
Valentia, Viscount
Walrond, Rt. Hon. Sir W. H.
Wanklyn, James Leslie
Warde, Colonel C. E.
Webb, Col. William George
Welby,Lt.-Col.A.CE(*Taunton*
Welby, Sir Chas. G. E. (*Notts*)
Whiteley, H.(*Ashton-u.-Lyne*)
Willoughby de Eresby, Lord
Wills, Sir Frederick
Wilson, John (*Falkirk*)
Wilson, John (*Glasgow*)
Wilson-Todd, Wm. H.(*Yorks.*)
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Worsley-Taylor, Hry. Wilson
Wortley, Rt. Hn. C. B. Stuart-
Young, Samuel

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Mr. Fellowes.

NOES.

Allen, Chas. P. (*Glos., Stroud*)
Asher, Alexander
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Beaumont, Wentworth C. B.
Bolton, Thomas Dolling
Brigg, John
Brown, Geo. M. (*Edinburgh*)
Brunner, Sir John Tomlinson
Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Burns, John
Burt, Thomas
Caldwell, James
Cameron, Robert
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Craig, Robert Hunter(*Lanark*
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Crooks, William
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, Alfred (*Carmarthen*)
Davies, M.Vaughan (*Cardign*
Duncan, J. Hastings
Dunn, Sir William
Edwards, Frank
Elibank, Master of
Evans, Samuel T. (*Glamorgan*
Farquharson, Dr. Robert
Fenwick, Charles
Ferguson, R. C. Munro (*Leith*)
Foster, Sir Walter (*Derby Co.*
Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herbert J.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Hardie, J. Keir (*Merthyr Tyd*
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Chas. Seale
Hayter, Rt Hon Sir Arthur D.
Hemphill, Rt. Hon. Charles H.
Hobhouse, C. E. H.(*Bristol,E.*)
Horniman, Frederick John
Hutchinson,Dr.CharlesFredk.
Joicey, Sir James
Jones, David B. (*Swansea*)
Jones, Wm. (*Carnarvonshire*)
Langley, Batty
Lawson,Sir Wilfrid (*Cornwall*)
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leng, Sir John
Lewis, John Herbert
M'Crae, George
Markham, Arthur Basil
Morgan,J.Lloyd (*Carmarthen*)
Moulton, John Fletcher
Newnes, Sir George
O'Mara, James
Partington, Oswald
Philipps, John Wynford
Pilkington, Lt.-Col. Richard
Pirie, Duncan V.
Price, Robert John
Reid,SirR.Threshie(*Dumfries*)
Robson, William Snowdon
Russell, T. W.
Samuel, Herbert L. (*Cleveland*)
Shaw, Charles E. (*Stafford*)
Sinclair, John (*Forfarshire*)
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Taylor,Theodore C.(*Radcliffe*)
Thomas, A. (*Carmarthen, E.*)
Thomas,SirA.(*Glamorgan,E.*)
Thomas,David Alfred(*Merthyr*
Thomas,F.Freeman(*Hastings*)
Thomson, F. W. (*York, W. R.*)
Tomkinson, James
Toulmin, George
Ure, Alexander
Wallace, Robert
Walton, Joseph (*Barnsley*)
Wason,Eugene(*Clackmannan*
Wason,JohnCathcart(*Orkney*)
Weir, James Galloway
White, Luke (*York, E.R.*)
Whiteley, G. (*York, W. R.*)
Whitley, J. H. (*Halifax*)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Wilson, Chas. H. (*Hull, W.*)
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Charles Douglas and Mr. Black.

MR. EUGENE WASON said the object of his Amendment was to give some small concession to large populous burghs which had not the control of their own licensing. It was a very small matter, but it would be a boon to them because they had always hoped to be their own licensing authority.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 2, line 30, to leave out the words, 'the magistrates of which have power to grant certificates under the existing Acts.'"—(*Mr. Eugene Wason.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Bill.'

Mr. A. GRAHAM MURRAY said this was really the old story over again. He could not give way any more. These concessions were made to the Royal burghs on account of the position they held.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 2, line 38, to leave out from beginning of line, to the word 'Provided,' in line 39, and insert the words, 'number of the Court without such addition as the population of the burgh bears to the population of the county or district excluding every such burgh.'"—(*The Lord Advocate.*)

Amendment agreed to.

The Earl of DALKEITH said the reason he had put this Amendment down was that he considered it as only fair that these burghs should have their full number on the licensing authority. He could not see why it should be restricted to magistrates. It was only fair if there was not a sufficient number of magistrates that the number should be made up by councillors. He begged to move.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 2, line 30, after the word 'magistrates,' to insert the words, 'or councillors.'"—(*The Earl of Dalkeith.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted in the Bill."

Mr. GRAHAM MURRAY said if the burgh got its magisterial body it was all it was entitled to. He could not accept the Amendment.

Question put, and negatived.

Mr. MUNRO FERGUSON said in the discussion upstairs no very varied argument had been urged against the omission of the appeal Courts. His experience was that the licensing Courts of first instance did their work far better than the appeal Courts, and therefore he begged to move.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 3, line 3, to leave out Clause 4."—(*Mr. Munro Ferguson.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out to the words, 'one-half' in line 5, stand part of the Bill."

Mr. A. GRAHAM MURRAY said this Amendment was to abolish the Court of appeal altogether. That was a proposition he was not prepared to accept and which he thought if accepted would not be at all advantageous to the licensing laws of Scotland. There were, he thought, very few matters in which it would be to the advantage of the public that there should be no appeal Court. The true value of an appeal Court in cases of this kind consisted not so much in the fact that a decision might be reversed, but in the fact that the Court below knew it could not do what it liked without its decisions being questioned. He would certainly object to the appeal Courts being taken out.

Mr. ASHER said that where a Court of first instance had to decide questions of law or of fact an appeal Court was a most valuable institution, but in this case what was proposed was an appeal Court to review the decisions of the licensing magistrates who, in exercising their discretion, had proceeded upon facts known to themselves, and of which there was no record whatever, the theory of the licensing Court being that it should consist of persons with local knowledge by which they should be guided in regard to the granting of licences. The decisions of such a body were to be reviewed by gentlemen from, perhaps, the other end of the county, who knew nothing whatever about the local circumstances of the particular place for which the licence was asked. While he had every admiration for an appeal Court under proper circumstances, it appeared to be perfectly absurd here.

Mr. BLACK, in supporting the Amendment, said the Lord Advocate was consistent in constantly appealing to what had been, but he had given no reason whatever for maintaining, in the altered circumstances, what had been. The strengthening of the Court of first instance had done away with whatever reason previously existed for the maintenance of a Court of appeal. Moreover, according to statistics, the Court of appeal had been falling in popularity in Scotland, inasmuch as while ten years ago there were 141 appeals there were now only half that number, representing about ½ per cent. of the cases disposed of even by the inferior Court of first instance.

MR. BRYCE (Aberdeen, S.) expressed his surprise that more argument had not been adduced by the Lord Advocate in support of the clause. Many Members who were now present were not on the Standing Committee, and the House was entitled on a question of such importance to more than a perfunctory expression of opinion. He believed that the general trend of opinion in Scotland for some time past had been against the appeal Court. In saying that, he was not referring to the extreme section of the temperance party, but to the moderate and reasonable men who felt that some reform was needed, but who were anxious that the law should be administered with fairness and moderation. The balance of opinion among that class of the population was that the appeal Court was of little or no use. The appeals were described as being from knowledge to ignorance, from those who had a direct local interest to those who were indifferent, and if that were true, the House ought to have further reasons given in favour of the retention of this clause. The argument of the Lord Advocate that the primary licensing Court required to be kept in order by the possibility of its decisions being reversed was hardly applicable, as the Court of first instance really had a direct local responsibility, while the Court of appeal would not have the same responsibility. He believed that the balance of Scotch opinion was that no good had been derived from the existence of the appeal Court in times past, and that the present opportunity should be taken to get rid of it.

MR. A. GRAHAM MURRAY asked whether the right hon. Gentleman was really under the impression that the balance of Scotch opinion was against the existence of the confirmatory Court.

MR. BRYCE believed it was in favour of throwing the whole responsibility on the Court of first instance, which was in the locality, knew the facts, and was practically responsible to the people of the district. Opinion might differ in different parts of the country, but as far as he knew that was the feeling.

SIR CHARLES RENSHAW (Renfrew, W.) protested against the view given by the right hon. Gentleman of opinion in Scotland with regard to the appeal Court, and especially to the confirmatory Court. The latter had been a most valuable check on the licensing system, and there would be a feeling of deep regret throughout Scotland if the protection afforded by it were withdrawn.

MR. HUNTER CRAIG said it was a notorious fact that all the larger burghs had felt it to be an injustice that justices should be brought in from outside to overturn the decisions of the people on the spot.

SIR JAMES FERGUSSON denied the accuracy of the view of the right hon Gentleman opposite. It was true that great scandal had arisen in connection with canvassing, but that would be put right by the establishment of a properly constituted Court. The great advantage of a confirmatory Court was that it secured uniformity of procedure, which was not likely to be obtained if all the smaller licensing bodies acted independently.

MR. DALZIEL regarded this clause as one of the blackest spots in the Bill. If the Government considered the authority they were setting up to be a proper authority, why should there be any appeal against their decision? A kind of House of Lords was being set up, and it would weaken both the Bill and the local authority.

MR. GROVES, speaking as one possessing some knowledge of the subject, and a full share of common sense, said that this clause, so far from weakening the Bill, was one of its strong points, and was necessary if the measure was to work satisfactorily.

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 217; Noes 76. (Division List No. 149.)

AYES.

Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Anstruther, H. T.
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Arrol, Sir William
Atkinson, Right Hon. John
Aubrey-Fletcher, Rt. Hn. Sir H.
Bagot, Capt. Josceline FitzRoy

Bain, Colonel James Robert
Baird, John George Alexander
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J. (*Man'r*
Balfour, Capt. C. B. (*Hornsey*
Balfour, Rt. Hn. G. W. (*Leeds*
Balfour, Kenneth R. (*Christch*
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Bathurst, Hon. Allen Benj.
Beach, Rt. Hon. Sir M. Hicks
Beckett, Ernest William
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.
Bigwood, James
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
Bowles, T. Gibson (*Lynn Regis*
Brassey, Albert
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Bull, William James
Butcher, John George
Campbell, Rt Hn. J. A (*Glasgow*)
Campbell, John (*Armagh, S.*)
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Cavendish, R. F. (*N. Lancs.*)
Cavendish, V C W (*Derbysh.*)
Cayzer, Sir Charles William
Cecil, Evelyn (*Aston Manor*)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (*Greenwich*)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hn. J A (*Wor.*
Chapman, Edward
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Coddington, Sir William
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Colston, Chas. Edw H. Athole
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Cook, Sir Frederick Lucas
Corbett, A. Cameron (*Glasg.*)
Cox, Irwin Edwd. Bainbridge
Cranborne, Viscount
Cross, Herb. Shepherd (*Bolton*)
Crossley, Rt. Hon. Sir Savile
Cubitt, Hon. Henry
Cust, Henry John C.
Dalkeith, Earl of
Denny, Colonel
Devlin, Joseph (*Kilkenny, N.*)
Dewar, Sir T. R. (*Tr. Haml'ts*
Dickson, Charles Scott
Digby, John K. D. Wingfield-
Dimsdale, Rt. Hon. Sir Jos. C.
Dixon-Hartland, Sir F. Dixon
Doogan, P. C.
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers
Duke, Henry Edward
Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas
Fergusson, Rt Hn. Sir J. (*Manc'r*
Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
FitzGerald, Sir Robt. Penrose-
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Flower, Ernest
Forster, Henry William
Foster, Philip S. (*Warwick, S. W*
Fyler, John Arthur
Galloway, William Johnson
Gardner, Ernest
Garfit, William
Godson, Sir Augustus Fredk.
Gordon, Hn. J. E. (*Elgin & Nrn.*
Gore, HnG. R. C. Ormsby-(*Salop*
Goschen, Hon. Geo. Joachim
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Greene, W. Raymond (*Cambs*
Gretton, John
Greville, Hon. Ronald
Groves, James Grimble
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Guthrie, Walter Murray
Halsey, Rt. Hon. Thomas F.
Hambro, Charles Eric
Hamilton, Marq. of (*L'donderry*
Harris, Frederick Leverton
Hatch, Ernest Frederick Geo.
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Heath, Arthur H. *Hanley*)
Heath, James (*Stafford, N. W.*
Helder, Augustus
Hogg, Lindsay
Houston, Robert Paterson
Howard, Jno (*Kent, Faver'hm*
Jeffreys, Rt. Hn. Arthur Fred
Jessel, Capt. Herbert Merton
Johnstone, Heywood
Kemp, Lieut.-Colonel George
Kenyon-Slaney, Col. W. (*Salop*
Kerr, John
Keswick, William
King, Sir Henry Seymour
Lambton, Hon. Fredk. Wm.
Laurie, Lieut.-General
Law, Andrew Bonar (*Glasgow*
Lawson, J. Grant (*Yorks., N. R.*
Lees, Sir Elliott (*Birkenhead*)
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leveson-Gower, Frederick N. S.
Lockwood, Lieut.-Col. A. R.
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Long, Col. Charles W. (*Evesham*
Long, Rt. Hn. W. (*Bristol, S*
Lowe, Francis William
Lowther, C. (*Cumb. Eskdale*)
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas, Col. Francis (*Lowestoft*)
Lucas, Reg'ld J. (*Portsmouth*)
Macdona, John Cumming
M'Iver, Sir Lewis (*Edinburgh W*
M'Killop, Jas. (*Stirlingshire*)
M'Killop, W. (*Sligo, North*)
Manners, Lord Cecil
Martin, Richard Biddulph
Meysey-Thompson, Sir H. M.
Mitchell William (*Burnley*)
Molesworth, Sir Lewis
Montagu, G. (*Huntingdon*)
Montagu, Hon. J. Scott (*Hants.*
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
Morgan, David J (*Walthamstow*
Morgan, Hn. F. (*Monm'thsh.*)
Morrell, George Herbert
Morrison, James Archibald
Morton, Arthur H. Aylmer
Mount, William Arthur
Mowbray, Sir Robt. Gray C.
Muntz, Sir Philip A.
Murray, Rt. Hn A Graham (*Bute*
Murray, Charles J. (*Coventry*)
Myers, William Henry
O'Brien, K. (*Tipperary, Mid*)
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, Conor (*Mayo, N.*)
Orr-Ewing, Charles Lindsay
Parkes, Ebenezer
Pease, Herb. Pike (*Darlington*)
Peel, Hn. Wm. Robert Wellesley
Penn, John
Percy, Earl
Pilkington, Colonel Richard
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Plummer, Walter R.
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Pretyman, Ernest George
Purvis, Robert
Randles, John S.
Ratcliff, R. F.
Rattigan, Sir William Henry
Reid, James (*Greenock*)
Remnant, Jas. Farquharson
Renshaw, Sir Charles Bine
Ridley, Hn. M. W. (*Stalybridge*
Ritchie, Rt Hon. Chas. Thomson
Roberts, Samuel (*Sheffield*)
Robertson, H. (*Hackney*)
Roche, John
Rolleston, Sir John F. L.
Round, Rt. Hon. James
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford-
Sadler, Col. Saml. Alexander
Samuel, Harry S. (*Limehouse*)
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Seely, Maj. J. E. B (*Isle of Wight*
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Shaw-Stewart, M. H. (*Renfrew*
Sinclair, Louis (*Romford*)
Skewes-Cox, Thomas
Smith, Abel H. (*Hertford, E.*)
Smith, Jas. Parker (*Lanarks.*)
Smith, Hn. W. F. D. (*Strand*)
Spear, John Ward
Stanley, Lord (*Lancs.*)
Stewart, Sir M. J. M'Taggart
Stirling-Maxwell, Sir Jn. M.
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
Talbot, Rt Hn. J. G. (*Oxf'd Univ.*
Taylor, Austin (*East Toxteth*)
Tollemache, Henry James
Tritton, Charles Ernest
Valentia, Viscount
Walrond, Rt. Hon. Sir W. H.
Warde, Colonel C. E.
Webb, Col. William George
Welby, Lt.-Col. A. C. E (*Taunton*
Welby, Sir Chas. G. E. (*Notts*)
Whiteley, H. (*Ashton-u.-Lyne*)
Willoughby de Eresby, Lord
Wilson, John (*Falkirk*)
Wilson, John (*Glasgow*)
Wilson-Todd, Wm. H. (*Yorks.*
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Worsley-Taylor, Hry. Wilson
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Mr. Fellowes.

NOES.

Allen, Chas. P. (*Glos., Stroud*)
Asher, Alexander
Beaumont, Wentworth C. B.
Black, Alexander William
Bolton, Thomas Dolling
Brand, Hon. Arthur G.

Brigg, John
Brown, Geo. M. (*Edinburgh*)
Brunner, Sir John Tomlinson
Bryce, Right Hon. James
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Burns, John
Caldwell, James
Cameron, Robert
Craig, Robert Hunter (*Lanark*
Cremer, William Randal
Crooks, William
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, Alfred (*Carmarthen*)
Davies, M. Vaughan-(*Cardigan*
Douglas, Charles M. (*Lanark*)
Duncan, J. Hastings
Dunn, Sir William
Edwards, Frank
Elibank, Master of
Evans, Saml. T. (*Glamorgan*)
Farquharson, Dr. Robert
Fenwick, Charles
Foster, Sir Walter (*Derby Co.*
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Hardie, J. Keir (*Merthyr Tyd*
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Chas. Seale
Hayter, Rt. Hn. Sir Arthur D.
Hemphill, Rt. Hon. Chas. H.
Horniman, Frederick John
Hutchinson, Dr. Charles Fredk.
Jones, David Brynmor (*Swansea*
Jones, Wm. (*Carnarvonshire*)
Langley, Batty
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (*Cornwall*)
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leng, Sir John
Lewis, John Herbert
Lough, Thomas
M'Crae, George
M'Laren, Sir Charles Benj.
Mansfield, Horace Rendall
Markham, Arthur Basil
Morgan, J. Lloyd (*Carmarthen*
Newnes, Sir George
Partington, Oswald
Philipps, John Wynford
Pirie, Duncan V.
Reid, Sir R. Threshie (*Dumfries*)
Samuel, Herbert L. (*Cleveland*)
Sinclair, John (*Forfarshire*)
Smith, H. C (*Northum. Tyneside*)
Taylor, Theodore C. (*Radcliffe*
Tennant, Harold John
Thomas, A. (*Carmarthen, E.*)
Thomas, Sir A. (*Glamorgan, E.*)
Thomas, David A. (*Merthyr*)
Thomas, F. Freeman (*Hastings*)
Thomson, F. W. (*York, W. R.*)
Toulmin, George
Ure, Alexander
Wallace, Robert
Wason, E. (*Clackmannan*)
Wason, John Cathcart (*Orkney*
Weir, James Galloway
White, Luke (*York, E. R.*)
Whiteley, G. (*York, W. R.*)
Whitley, J. H. (*Halifax*)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Wilson, Chas. H. (*Hull, W.*)
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
Mr. Munro Ferguson and
Mr. Crombie.

And it being after half-past Seven of the clock, further consideration of the Bill, as amended, stood adjourned till this Evening's Sitting.

EVENING SITTING.

LICENSING ACTS (SCOTLAND) CONSOLIDATION AND AMENDMENT BILL.

As amended (by the Standing Committee), further considered.

MR. GROVES formally moved the following Amendment standing in the name of Mr. Galloway.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 3, line 5, to leave out the words 'one-half,' and insert the words 'two-thirds.'"—(*Mr. Groves.*)

Question proposed "That the words 'one-half' stand part of the Bill."

MR. A. GRAHAM MURRAY said if he were master of the situation he would be willing to accede to the Motion, but in the interests of the Bill he was bound to stand by the concessions made in Committee, and therefore he would advise the House to vote against the Amendment. The exact proportion was a question which did not matter one way or the other, but as he had had no hesitation in gauging the feeling of the Committee on this question he should stick to the Bill and oppose the Amendment now proposed.

MR. GRETTON thought there were weighty arguments in favour of the Amendment. The right hon. and learned Gentleman only said he felt bound by the compromise which had been arrived at in Committee, but it seemed to him to be an illogical proceeding to refer a decision come to by one body to another body largely composed of the original body which arrived at the decision. He thought it was seriously to be regretted that the compromise had been arrived at.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Amendments proposed to the Bill—

"In page 3, line 10, after the word '(2),' insert the words 'Except as hereinafter provided'"

"In page 3, lines 23 and 24, to leave out the words 'having a separate licensing Court and containing a population,' and insert the words 'containing a population of or exceeding seven thousand and.'"

"In page 3, line 30, after the word 'Courts,' to insert the words 'and from any burgh licensing Court for a burgh situate within the county which is not specified in the immediately preceding subsection.'"—(*The Lord Advocate.*)

Amendments agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 3, lines 39 and 40, to leave out the words 'a proprietor of lands or houses or has not a residence or a place of business,' and insert the words 'entered in the valuation roll in force for the time being as a proprietor, tenant, or occupier of lands or heritages.'"—(*The Lord Advocate.*)

Amendment agreed to.

MR. CHARLES DOUGLAS said this Amendment provided for the representation of burghs on the county appeal Court in respect of decisions given by the burgh licensing committee being the subject of the review of the Court. As the Bill at present stood the burghs were left without any representation whatever in the appeal Court by which their decisions were reviewed. Although they might regard the question of Courts of first instance being settled this question of the Court of appeal was a separate question, and it was not an unreasonable suggestion to make that the burgh should be represented in the appeal Court in proportion to its population. He sincerely hoped the right hon. Gentleman would accept the Amendment. He begged to move.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

> "In page 4, line 3, at the end, to add the words '(a) The Court of appeal from a county licensing Court or county district licensing court as hereinbefore provided shall be modified by the addition thereto for each county of such a number of representatives, being magistrates from the burghs under 7,000 population, within each county as the Secretary for Scotland shall determine, by order under his hand, having regard to the relative population of the burghs and county respectively: Provided, that the number of magistrates to be determined as aforesaid shall not exceed the number of justices of the peace for the county contained in the Court of appeal; (b) The burgh representatives on the Court of appeal as provided in the immediately preceding sub-section shall be elected at a meeting of the magistrates of the burghs without separate licensing Courts within each county, to be convened by the town clerk of the county town of each county on the third Tuesday of December one thousand nine hundred and four, and they shall hold office till the third Tuesday of December one thousand nine hundred and five, when they shall retire, and their successors shall be elected at a meeting to be convened as aforesaid, and thereafter such retiral and election shall take place every third year at a meeting convened as aforesaid to be held on the third Tuesday of December, and the members so elected shall act for three years.'"—(*Mr. Charles Douglas.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

MR. A. GRAHAM MURRAY said he did not like to refuse an Amendment moved in such temperate language. In this case there were no old rights of which burghs had been deprived. The burghs never had any part in the appeal Court. The appeal was to the county justices, and the burghs were now in a much better position than they were before, because instead of going to an irregular tribunal, as they previously did, they went now to a regular appeal Court. If this had not complicated the appeal Court he would have accepted the Amendment, but, as it would complicate it very much, he could not do so. He had considered the matter, and if anything could have moved him it would have been the temperate language of the hon. Member.

MR. DALZIEL said he could not agree with the right hon. Gentleman in all he had said. He thought this was a very important Amendment, and was sorry the right hon. Gentleman could not accept it. He hoped the hon. Member would go to a division upon it.

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 56; Noes, 110. (Division List No. 150.)

AYES.

Black, Alexander William
Bolton, Thomas Dolling
Brigg, John
Brown, Geo. M. (*Edinburgh*)
Brunner, Sir John Tomlinson
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Burns, John
Burt, Thomas
Caldwell, James
Cameron, Robert
Craig, Robert Hunter (*Lanark*)
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Crooks, William
Dalkeith, Earl of
Davies, Alfred (*Carmarthen*)
Edwards, Frank
Farquharson, Dr. Robert
Fenwick, Charles
Foster, Sir Walter (*Derby Co.*)
Griffith, Ellis J.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Chas. Seale-
Jones, William (*Carnarv'nshire*
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (*Cornwall*)
Leng, Sir John
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
M'Crae, George
Mansfield, Horace Rendall
Markham, Arthur Basil
Morgan, J. Lloyd (*Carmarthen*)
Philipps, John Wynford
Pirie, Duncan V.
Priestley, Arthur
Reid, Sir R. Threshie (*Dumfries*)
Robertson, Edmund (*Dundee*)
Russell, T. W.
Samuel, Herbert L. (*Cleveland*)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair, John (*Forfarshire*)
Taylor, Theodore C. (*Radcliffe*
Tennant, Harold John
Thomas, Sir A. (*Glam., E.*)
Thomas, David A. (*Merthyr*)
Thomson, F. W. (*York, W.R.*)

Wallace, Robert
Wason, Eugene (*Clackmannan*)
Wason, J. Cathcart (*Orkney*)
Weir, James Galloway
White, Luke (*York, E.R.*)
Whitley, J. H. (*Halifax*)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Charles Douglas and Mr. Dalziel.

NOES.

Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Anstruther, H. T.
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Arrol, Sir William
Atkinson, Right Hon. John
Aubrey-Fletcher, Rt. Hn. Sir H.
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Balfour, Rt. Hn. G. W. (*Leeds*
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Bathurst, Hon. Allen Benj.
Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.
Bull, William James
Burke, E. Haviland
Butcher, John George
Campbell, John (*Armagh, S.*)
Cavendish, V. C. W. (*Derbysh*
Chapman, Edward
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Cook, Sir Frederick Lucas
Corbett, A. Cameron (*Glasgow*)
Crossley, Sir Savile
Cullinan, J.
Denny, Colonel
Devlin, Joseph (*Kilkenny, N.*)
Dewar, Sir T. R. (*Tr. Haml'ts*
Dickson, Charles Scott
Dimsdale, Rt. Hon. Sir Joseph C.
Doogan, P. C.
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Flower, Ernest
Flynn, James Christopher
Forster, Henry William
Fyler, John Arthur
Garfit, William
Godson, Sir Augustus Frederick
Goschen, Hon. Geo. Joachim
Greene, Hy. D. (*Shrewsbury*)
Gretton, John
Groves James Grimble
Hatch, Ernest Frederick G.
Helder, Augustus
Hogg, Lindsay
Houston, Robert Paterson
Howard, J. (*Midd., Tott'ham*
Jameson, Major J. Eustace
Johnstone, Heywood
Kenyon-Slaney, Col. W. (*Salop*
Kerr, John
Keswick, William
King, Sir Henry Seymour
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leveson-Gower, Frederick N. S.
Llewellyn, Evan Henry
Long, Rt. Hn. W. (*Bristol, S.*
MacIver, David (*Liverpool*)
M'Arthur, Charles (*Liverpool*)
M'Iver, Sir Lewis (*Edinb'rgh, W*
M'Killop, Jas. (*Stirlingshire*)
M'Killop, W. (*Sligo, North*)
M'Laren, Sir Charles Benj.
Meysey-Thompson, Sir H. M.
Milvain, Thomas
Mitchell, William (*Burnley*)
Montagu, G. (*Huntingdon*)
Morgan, D. J. (*Walthamstow*)
Morrell, George Herbert
Murray, Rt. Hn A. Graham (*Bute*
Nolan, Col. John P. (*Galway, N.*
O'Brien, K. (*Tipperary, Mid*)
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, Conor (*Mayo, N.*)
Orr-Ewing, Charles Lindsay
Pease, Herbert Pike (*Darlingt'n*
Peel, Hn Wm. Robert Wellesley
Percy, Earl
Plummer, Walter R.
Pretyman, Ernest George
Purvis, Robert
Randles, John S.
Rattigan, Sir William Henry
Reid, James (*Greenock*)
Remnant, Jas. Farquharson
Robertson, Herbert (*Hackney*)
Roche, John
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Sadler, Col. Samuel Alexander
Samuel, Harry S. (*Limehouse*)
Seely, Maj J. E. B. (*Isle of Wight*
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Sinclair, Louis (*Romford*)
Skewes-Cox, Thomas
Smith, Abel H. (*Hertford, E.*)
Smith, H. C. (*Northmb. Tyneside*
Spear, John Ward
Stanley, Lord (*Lancs.*)
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Taylor, Austin (*East Toxteth*)
Tomlinson, Sir Wm. E. M.
Ure, Alexander
Valentia, Viscount
Vincent, Sir Edgar (*Exeter*)
Walrond, Rt. Hon. Sir W. H.
Wilson, John (*Falkirk*)
Wilson, John (*Glasgow*)
Wyndham-Quin, Major W. H.

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Mr. Fellowes.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 4, line 31, to leave out from beginning of line to the word 'and,' in line 32."—(*The Lord Advocate.*)

Amendment agreed to.

THE EARL OF DALKEITH said the Amendment he now proposed might not be of great importance, but it seemed to him that in creating these clauses it would be unwise to restrict them, it would be much better to leave them unrestricted in these matters. He begged to move.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 6, line 10, to leave out Sub-section (11)."—(*The Earl of Dalkeith.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out to the word 'new' in line 12, stand part of the Bill."

MR. A. GRAHAM MURRAY said he was not prepared to accept the Amendment. He would rather stick to the Bill as it was.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

SIR JOHN LENG said the Amendment he now proposed was to extend this clause to renewals as well as new licences. He begged to move.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 6, line 12, to leave out the word 'new.'"—(*Sir John Leng.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'new' stand part of the Bill."

MR. A. GRAHAM MURRAY said he must oppose the Amendment because here again there was the question of the compromise. The Bill, as it stood, followed the old law, but this Amendment would entirely alter the law. Under the old law there was to be a majority in part because they had large irregular tribunals, but they now had regular tribunals. It was also questionable whether this Amendment was in order, having regard to what they had done in Sub-section 8 of the present clause, but he would not take that point. The idea was that where they were altering the *status quo* they must have an absolute majority. He had given way on the question of a new certificate in regard to which they must have an absolute majority, but when it was a case of appeal on renewal then they had a person who had already got a certificate and he was entitled to a renewal. He thought it was rather hard in an appeal case to insist upon an absolute majority. In every case if a new certificate was required they were bound to have a majority. Therefore he could not accept the Amendment.

MR. DALZIEL said he was sorry that the Lord Advocate had made a mistake in this matter. The question was whether the chairman had the power of a casting vote in regard to a renewal just as he had in regard to a new application. It was not a question of the merits. Whether it was an old or a new certificate was not the question the Committee had to decide, but it was the question of the power of the chairman, and if he had a casting vote in one case why should he not have it in an altogether different case? He hoped the hon. Member for Dundee would adhere to his very reasonable Amendment, and if he did he should support him.

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 124; Noes, 63. (Division List No. 151.)

AYES.

Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Anstruther, H. T.
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Arrol, Sir William
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Aubrey-Fletcher, Rt. Hn. Sir H.
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J. (*Man'r*
Balfour, Rt. Hn. G. W. (*Leeds*
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Bathurst, Hon. Allen Benj.
Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.
Bull, William James
Burke, E. Haviland
Butcher, John George
Campbell, John (*Armagh, S.*)
Cavendish, V. C. W. (*Derbyshire*
Cayzer, Sir Charles William
Chamberlain, Rt. Hn. J A (*Worc*
Chapman, Edward
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Cook, Sir Frederick Lucas
Cranborne, Viscount
Cross, Alexander (*Glasgow*)
Crossley, Sir Savile
Cullinan, J.
Dalkeith, Earl of
Denny, Colonel
Devlin, Joseph (*Kilkenny, N.*)
Dewar, Sir T. R. (*Tr. Haml'ts*
Dickson, Charles Scott
Dimsdale, Rt. Hon. Sir Jos. C.
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers
Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
FitzGerald, Sir Robt. Penrose
Flower, Ernest
Flynn, James Christopher
Forster, Henry William
Fyler, John Arthur
Garfit, William
Godson, Sir Augustus Fredk.
Goschen, Hon. Geo. Joachim
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Greene, Hy. D. (*Shrewsbury*)
Gretton, John
Groves, James Grimble
Hatch, Ernest Frederick Geo.
Heath, Arthur H. (*Hanley*)
Heath, James (*Staff's., N. W.*)
Hogg, Lindsay
Houston, Robert Paterson
Howard, J. (*Midd., Tott'ham*
Johnstone, Heywood
Kenyon-Slaney, Col. W. (*Salop*
Kerr, John
Keswick, William
King, Sir Henry Seymour
Law, Andrew Bonar (*Glasgow*
Lawson, John Grant (*Yorks N R.*
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leveson-Gower, Frederick N. S.
Llewellyn, Evan Henry
Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (*Bristol, S*
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Macdona, John Cumming
M'Arthur, Charles (*Liverpool*)
M'Iver, Sir Lewis (*Edinburgh W*
M'Killop, James (*Stirlingshire*
M'Killop, W. (*Sligo, North*)
Meysey-Thompson, Sir H. M.
Milvain, Thomas
Mitchell, William (*Burnley*)
Montagu, G. (*Huntingdon*)
Morgan, D. J. (*Walthamstow*)
Morrell, George Herbert
Morton, Arthur H. Aylmer
Murray, Rt Hn A. Graham (*Bute*
Myers, William Henry
Nolan, Col. John P. (*Galway, N*
O'Dowd, John
Orr-Ewing, Charles Lindsay
Parkes, Ebenezer
Peel, Hn Wm. Robert Wellesley
Percy, Earl
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Plummer, Walter R.
Pretyman, Ernest George
Purvis, Robert
Randles, John S.
Rattigan, Sir William Henry
Reid, James (*Greenock*)
Remnant, James Farquharson
Roberts, Samuel (*Sheffield*)
Robertson, H. (*Hackney*)
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Rutherford, John (*Lancashire*)
Sadler, Col. Samuel Alexander
Samuel, Harry S. (*Limehouse*)
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Sinclair, Louis (*Romford*)
Skewes-Cox, Thomas
Smith, Abel H. (*Hertford, E.*)
Smith, H C (*North'mb. Tyneside*
Smith, Hn. W. F. D. (*Strand*)
Spear, John Ward
Stanley, Lord (*Lancs.*)
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Tollemache, Henry James
Tomlinson, Sir Wm. E. M.
Valentia, Viscount
Walrond, Rt Hn. Sir William H.
Webb, Col. William George
Welby, Lt-Col. A. C. E. *Taunton*

Mr. A. Graham Murray.

Whiteley, H. (*Ashton-u.-Lyne*)
Wilson, John (*Falkirk*)
Wilson, John (*Glasgow*)
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Worsley-Taylor, Hry. Wilson
Wyndham-Quin, Major W. H.

Tellers for the Ayes—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Mr. Fellowes.

NOES.

Black, Alexander William
Bolton, Thomas Dolling
Brigg, John
Brown, George M. (*Edinburgh*)
Brunner, Sir John Tomlinson
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Burt, Thomas
Caldwell, James
Cameron, Robert
Corbett, A. Cameron (*Glasg.*)
Craig, Robert Hunter (*Lanark*)
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Crooks, William
Davies, Alfred (*Carmarthen*)
Douglas, Charles M. (*Lanark*)
Edwards, Frank
Elibank, Master of
Farquharson, Dr. Robert
Fenwick, Charles
Ferguson, R. C. Munro (*Leith*
Foster, Sir Walter (*Derby Co.*
Griffith, Ellis J.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Charles Seale-
Jones, Wm. (*Carnarvonshire*)
Langley, Batty
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (*Cornwall*)
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lough, Thomas
M'Crae, George
M'Laren, Sir Charles Benj.
Mansfield, Horace Rendall
Markham, Arthur Basil
Morgan, J. Lloyd (*Carmarthen*)
Partington, Oswald
Pease, Herbert Pike (*Darlington*
Philipps, John Wynford
Pirie, Duncan V.
Priestley, Arthur
Reid, Sir R. T. (*Dumfries*)
Roberts, John H. (*Denbighs.*)
Robertson, Edmund (*Dundee*)
Russell, T. W.
Samuel, Herbt. L. (*Cleveland*)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair, John (*Forfarshire*)
Smith, James Parker (*Lanarks.*
Taylor, Theo. C. (*Radcliffe*)
Tennant, Harold John
Thomas, Sir A. (*Glam., E.*
Thomas, David A. (*Merthyr*)
Thomson, F. W. (*York, W. R.*)
Ure, Alexander
Wallace, Robert
Wason, Eugene (*Clackmannan*)
Wason, J. Cathcart (*Orkney*)
Weir, James Galloway
White, Luke (*York, E. R.*)
Whitley, J. H. (*Halifax*)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Yoxall, James Henry

Tellers for the Noes—Sir John Leng and Mr. Dalziel.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 6, line 12, after the word 'certificate,' to insert the words 'or renewal.'"—(*Sir John Leng.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted in the Bill."

Mr. A. GRAHAM MURRAY hoped the hon. Member would not persist in his Amendment. He had already taken the sense of the House on his previous Amendments, and the case for this Amendment was infinitely weaker.

Sir JOHN LENG asked leave to withdraw his Amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 12, line 5, to leave out from the word 'premises,' to end of Sub-section (1), and insert the words 'and notwithstanding the repeal of any enactment by this Act the duty payable upon any Excise licence granted in pursuance of such a certificate shall continue to be at the same rate as was exigible for a similar licence immediately before the passing of this Act.'"—(*The Lord Advocate.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Bill."

Mr. BUCHANAN said he was under the impression that this clause was not in the Bill considered upstairs, but was one of the Amendments of the general law submitted by the Lord Advocate.

Mr. A. GRAHAM MURRAY said he had already stated that this was a drafting Amendment and made no difference whatsoever in the effect of the clause.

Question put, and negatived.

Question, "That those words be there inserted in the Bill," put, and agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 12, line 18, to leave out the word 'eleventh,' and insert the words 'twenty-eighth.'"—(*Sir John Leng.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'eleventh' stand part of the Bill."

Mr. A. GRAHAM MURRAY: I will accept this Amendment.

Question put and negatived.

Question "That the words 'twenty-eighth' be then inserted. put, and agreed to."

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 13, line 24, at the end, to insert the words 'For the purpose of preventing repeated applications for new certificates a Licensing Court may at any general half-yearly meeting make regulations determining the time which must elapse after the hearing and refusal of one application for a certificate before another application may be made in respect of the same premises. Provided that the Court may in their discretion, for good cause shown, dispense with the observance of these regulations in any particular case.'"—(*Mr. Hunter Craig.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted in the Bill."

MR. A. GRAHAM MURRAY said the hon. Member had told the House how he had once to travel 800 miles in order to prevent the granting of a licence, and he said it was very hard that the same application for licences should be put forward again and again. As he had already explained to the Committee, he did not think that any difficulty would arise in the future. In the old days there was a sort of moving Court of justice, that was to say, any body could be got together, and he could understand a person anxious to obtain a licence which had previously been refused him, desiring, to use a sporting phrase, to have a run for his money in the new Court. Under this Bill they would have a stable Court which would meet twice a year, and he did not see why it should not do any business put before it. He did not see any grievance even if they had the importunate widow coming more than once with the same application. Many people had to do business which they did not altogether like, and this was an Amendment which the Government could not accept. It would be just as reasonable for the Government to propose a regulation to prevent any hon. Member who had already moved two Amendments from moving a third. If they put into the law any provision, like that which the hon. Member had proposed, for making regulations to prevent people from making renewed applications they would get into great difficulties.

SIR ROBERT REID said the right hon. Gentleman had stated that the Bill would set up a more stable Court which would not be liable to the same influences as the old Court. If that were so, there was nothing in this Amendment which would interfere with that and the proposal of his hon. friend would not lay down a hard and fast rule. These Courts in the past had been frequently worried by constant and useless applications by persons to whom the Courts had resolved not to give licences, and this Amendment proposed to give the Courts an opportunity, if the circumstances demanded it, to make a regulation preventing repeated applications in a particular case. He agreed that it was not a matter of great importance but it was reasonable, and he thought it would discourage this troublesome practice.

MR. DALZIEL said the Lord Advocate had drawn a comparison between this Amendment and the Rules of the House, and he stated that it would be just as reasonable to make a Rule preventing an hon. Member who had moved two Amendments from moving a third. He wished to remind the right hon. Gentleman that in such a case an hon. Member would be acting in accordance with the Rules of the House, and if a question was decided in the House on one day it could not be decided again the next day or the day after. This was not a question of a fresh licence, but a question of repeated applications for the same premises.

MR. A. GRAHAM MURRAY replied that an hon. Member could move a Bill one year in the House and move it again the next year. As a matter of fact, he had heard the hon. Member for Kirkcaldy Burghs make the same speech year after year.

MR. DALZIEL said he was indebted to the Lord Advocate for his great compliment, although he was not aware of it and he should be glad to know upon what particular subject he had acted in the way suggested. This was not a question of the Rules of the House or of the Court, but it was a question of having repeated applications to renew the certificate of licence for certain premises. That meant that the community were in a state of continual friction in regard to the application. It was unreasonable that the same application for the same premises could be made every six months, and it should be in the power of the Court to make regulations of the kind proposed.

MR. HUNTER CRAIG said that a somewhat similar clause was inserted in the English Bill with reference to transfers, and therefore he did not see why the Lord Advocate should consider such a clause objectionable when proposed for the Scotch Bill. The grievance was doubly felt in Scotland, because, while the English licensing meeting only took place once a year, and the licensing committee could determine what time should elapse before the application could be renewed, under the Scotch Bill the application could come up four times as against once in England. It was a very great hardship that the licensing authority should be pestered by the same man coming every six months with the same application. In a portion of his constituency of Govan, which had a population of 6,000, there was not a single public house, and the community were pestered by the same people applying for licences every six months. They had to get up a Vigilance Committee and canvass the community against the applications. That was a source of great annoyance and trouble to the inhabitants of the place. The Amendment was a reasonable one, and he hoped the House would accept it.

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 71; Noes, 154. (Division List No 152.)

AYES.

Bolton, Thomas Dolling
Brigg, John
Brown George M. (*Edinburgh*)
Brunner, Sir John Tomlinson
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Burt, Thomas
Caldwell, James
Cameron, Robert
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Corbett, A. Cameron (*Glasg.*)
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Crooks, William
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, Alfred (*Carmarthen*)
Douglas, Charles M. (*Lanark*)
Duncan J. Hastings
Dunn, Sir William
Edwards, Frank
Elibank, Master of
Farquharson, Dr. Robert
Fenwick, Charles
Ferguson, R. C. Munro (*Leith*)
Foster, Sir Walter (*Derby Co.*)
Griffith, Ellis J.
Gurdon Sir W. Brampton
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Charles Seale-
Horniman, Frederick John
Jones, William Carnarvonshire
Langley, Batty
Lawson Sir Wilfrid (*Cornwall*)
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leng, Sir John
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lough, Thomas
M'Crae George
M'Laren, Sir Charles Benj.
Mansfield, Horace Rendall
Markham. Arthur Basil
Morgan, J. Lloyd (*Carmarthen*)
Newnes, Sir George
Partington, Oswald
Philipps, John Wynford
Pirie, Duncan V.
Priestley, Arthur
Reid, Sir R. Threshie (*Dumfries*)
Roberts, John H. (*Denbighs.*)
Robertson Edmund (*Dundee*)
Russell, T. W.
Samuel, Herbert L. (*Cleveland*)
Shaw-Stewart, M. H. (*Renfrew*)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair, John (*Forfarshire*)
Taylor, Theodore C. (*Radcliffe*)
Tennant, Harold John
Thomas, A. (*Carmarthen, E.*)
Thomas, Sir A. (*Glam., E.*)
Thomas, David Alfred (*Merthyr*
Thomson, F. W. (*York W. R.*)
Toulmin, George
Ure, Alexander
Wallace, Robert
Wason, Eugene (*Clackmannan*)
Wason, John Cathcart (*Orkney*)
Weir, James Galloway
White, Luke (*York, E.R.*)
Whitley, J. H. (*Halifax*)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Wilson, John (*Falkirk*)
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
Mr. Hunter Craig and
Mr. Black.

NOES.

Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Anstruther, H. T.
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Arrol, Sir William
Atkinson, Right Hon. John
Aubrey-Fletcher, Rt. Hn Sir H.
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J. (*Manch'r*)
Balfour, Kenneth R. (*Christch*
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Bathurst, Hon. Allen Benj.
Brassey, Albert
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Bull, William James
Butcher, John George
Cavendish, V. C. W. (*Derbysh.*)
Cayzer, Sir Charles William
Chamberlain, Rt. Hn. J A (*Worc.*
Chapman, Edward
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Colston, Chas. Edw H. Athole
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Cook, Sir Frederick Lucas
Cranborne, Viscount
Cross, Alexander (*Glasgow*)
Cross, H. Shepherd (*Bolton*)
Crossley, Rt. Hon. Sir Saville
Cullinan, J.
Dalkeith, Earl of
Denny, Colonel
Devlin, Joseph (*Kilkenny, N.*
Dickson, Charles Scott
Digby, John K. D. Wingfield-
Dimsdale, Rt. Hon. Sir Jos. C.
Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
Doogan, P. C.
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas

Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
FitzGerald, Sir Robt. Penrose
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Flower, Ernest
Forster, Henry William
Fyler, John Arthur
Garfit, William
Godson, Sir Augustus Fredk.
Gordon, HnJE(*Elgin and N'rn*
Goschen, Hon. Geo. Joachim
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Greene, Henry D. (*Shrewsbury*)
Gretton, John
Groves, James Grimble
Hambro, Charles Eric
Harris, Frederick Leverton
Hatch, Ernest Frederick Geo.
Heath, Arthur H. (*Hanley*)
Heath, James (*Staffords., N. W*
Heaton, John Henniker
Henderson, Sir Alexander
Hogg, Lindsay
Houston, Robert Paterson
Howard, J. (*Midd. Tottenham*)
Jameson, Major J. Eustace
Johnstone, Heywood
Kenyon-Slaney, Col. W. (*Salop.*
Kerr, John
Keswick, William
King, Sir Henry Seymour
Law, Andrew Bonar (*Glasgow*)
Lawson, John Grant (*Yorks, NR*
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leveson-Gower, Frederick N. S.
Llewellyn, Evan Henry
Lockwood, Lieut.-Col. A. R.
Long, Rt. Hn. W. (*Bristol, S.*
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Macdona, John Cumming
M'Arthur, Charles (*Liverpool*)
M'Iver, Sir Lewis (*Edinburgh W*
M'Killop, Jas. (*Stirlingshire*)
M'Killop, W. (*Sligo, North*
Manners, Lord Cecil
Meysey-Thompson, Sir H. M.
Milvain, Thomas
Mitchell, William (*Burnley*)
Montagu, G. (*Huntingdon*)
Morgan, D. J. (*Walthamstow*)
Morrell, George Herbert
Morton, Arthur H. Aylmer
Mount, William Arthur
Murray, Rt. Hn A. Graham (*Bute*
Murray, Charles J. (*Coventry*)
Myers, William Henry
O'Brien, P. J. (*Tipperary, N.*)
O'Dowd, John
Orr-Ewing, Charles Lindsay
Parkes, Ebenezer
Pease, Herbert Pike (*Darlingt'n*
Peel, Hn. Wm. Robert Wellesley
Percy, Earl
Pilkington, Lt.-Col. Richard
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Plummer, Walter R.
Pretyman, Ernest George
Purvis, Robert
Randles, John S.
Ratcliff, R. F.
Rattigan, Sir William Henry
Reid, James (*Greenock*)
Remnant, James Farquharson
Renshaw, Sir Charles Bine
Ritchie, Rt. Hon. C. Thomson
Roberts, Samuel (*Sheffield*)
Robertson, Herbert (*Hackney*)
Roche, John
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Rutherford, John (*Lancashire*)
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford
Sadler, Col. Samuel Alexander
Samuel, Harry S. (*Limehouse*)
Seely, Maj. J. E. B. (*Isle of Wight*
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Sinclair, Louis (*Romford*)
Skewes-Cox, Thomas
Smith, Abel H. (*Hertford, E.*)
Smith, H C (*North'mb Tyneside*)
Smith, Jas. Parker (*Lanarks.*)
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (*Strand*)
Spear, John Ward
Stanley, Lord (*Lancashire*)
Stirling-Maxwell, Sir John M.
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Stroyan, John
Taylor, Austin (*East Toxteth*)
Tollemache, Henry James
Tomlinson, Sir Wm. Edw. M.
Valentia, Viscount
Walrond, Rt Hn. Sir William H.
Webb, Col. William George
Welby, Lt-Col. A. C. E (*Taunton*
Whiteley, H. (*Ashton-u.-Lyne*)
Wilson, A. S. (*York, E. R.*)
Wilson John (*Glasgow*)
Wilson-Todd, Wm. H. (*Yorks.*)
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Worsley-Taylor, Henry Wilson
Wyndham-Quin, Major W. H.

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Mr. Fellowes.

SIR ROBERT REID asked permission to put a Question to the Lord Advocate in regard to Clause 18. Would there be any difficulty in the matter of machinery in a Court requiring a person concerned to attend?

MR. A. GRAHAM MURRAY said the law here was simply the law as it stood. There was no alteration.

MR. GRETTON moved an Amendment with the object of restricting the right of appeal in cases where objectors did not appear in the first instance before the licensing authority. The clause provided:—

> "If any member of a licensing Court, or proprietor or occupier of any house or premises in respect whereof any such certificate shall be applied for, or proprietor or occupier of property in the neighbourhood of such house, shall be dissatisfied with any proceeding of any licensing Court assembled for granting certificates as aforesaid, whether in granting or refusing or otherwise disposing of any such application, it shall be lawful to such member of the licensing Court, proprietor, or occupier, to appeal therefrom to the next Court of appeal from such licensing Court."

It appeared to him that no such right of appeal was at all requisite. An appeal should only be available to those who had previously been represented before the licensing authority, or to public officers who might have some claim to be heard. He begged to move.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

> "In page 17, line 1, to leave out the words 'or proprietor or occupier of property in the neighbourhood of such house.'"—(*Mr. Gretton.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Bill."

MR. A. GRAHAM MURRAY said he could not accept the Amendment, but he had on the Paper two Amendments to limit the right of appeal to proprietors or occupiers of property who appeared in the Court of first instance in objection to the granting or renewal of the licence. He thought his Amendments would really meet the hon. Member's point, and would deal with it more appropriately than by leaving out the words altogether.

SIR ROBERT REID said if this was propounded in the sense of a compromise, and was acceptable to hon. Members on this side of the House, he did not wish to spoil the proceedings by objecting. It appeared to him an astonishing thing to deny to the owner or occupier of a valuable residence the right of appeal against the granting or renewal of a licence which might diminish the value of his property by one-half. If any hon. Member was disposed to go to a division in regard to the Lord Advocate's proposition he would support him, but as he wished to recognise the spirit of compromise he would not himself do anything to mar peaceful proceedings. At the same time he must object to what appeared to him a perfectly monstrous proposal.

Question put, and agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 17, line 1, after the first word 'or,' to insert the words 'if any.'"—(*The Lord Advocate.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 17, line 2, after the word 'house,' to insert the words 'who has objected before the licensing Court to the granting or renewal of any such certificate.'"—(*The Lord Advocate.*)

Amendment greed to.

MR. BLACK said he had an Amendment on the Paper which raised the question of the *bonâ fide* traveller. There were many inns and hotels in the neighbourhood of large towns and cities which were used only for the purpose of Sunday drinking. His Amendment would enable the licensing Court to limit the licence so that the applicant should not be permitted to admit travellers to his inn or hotel on Sunday. The Lord Advocate had given an undertaking in Committee that this matter would be considered on Report. He begged to move.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 22, line 17, after the word 'Sunday,' to insert the words 'or when in any case the Court considers that the premises should be closed during the whole of Sunday.'"—(*Mr. Black.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted in the Bill."

MR. A. GRAHAM MURRAY said he had considered the matter, and he could not accept the Amendment. At present the law was that a six days licence was a matter for the licencee to decide for himself. If he only wished a six days licence, he had simply to go to the Inland Revenue Office and he would get it. But it seemed to him that there was no right in the magistrates or licensing authority to force a six days licence on any applicant, and upon the whole he thought that that was the best position for the law to be in. He did not think it would be for the advantage of the public that the licensing Court should be able to say to an applicant "We will not grant you a full hotel licence but only a six days licence." That was to say that no liquor should ever be supplied to travellers at all on Sundays.

MR. BLACK said a lodger would have the power to get what liquor he wanted, but not a passing traveller.

MR. A. GRAHAM MURRAY said he did not think that on the whole that would be right. If there was no possibility of supplying a traveller at all, it would not matter whether the traveller was a *bonâ fide* or a *malâ fide* traveller.

MR. CROMBIE said he really wished the Lord Advocate would give this subject more consideration. The chief constables of the country seemed to be unanimous that the great blot on the

Bill was the absence of a definition of the *bonâ fide* traveller. There were certain districts near large towns where the *bonâ fide* traveller hardly existed, and he thought the licensing authority should have the power proposed to be given in his hon. friend's Amendment. He hoped that if the Lord Advocate could not accept the Amendment in its present shape he would propose something else to carry out the object in view.

Mr. DALZIEL said the great difficulty at present was to know who the *bonâ fide* traveller was. He knew a case where the name entered on the visitors' book was that of the hon. Member for Camborne. He knew very well that his hon. friend was not in the habit of visiting public houses in the neighbourhood of Glasgow.

Mr. A. GRAHAM MURRAY: *Hoc prætexit nomine culpam.*

Mr. DALZIEL said that of course visitors did not use their own names, but somebody else's by way of joke.

Sir WILFRID LAWSON (Cornwall, Camborne) said he believed that not only was his own name used in the visitors' book, but also those of several Bishops.

Sir ROBERT REID said that the Lord Advocate ought surely to pay attention to the remonstrances of the Scotch Members in matters of this kind.

Mr. PARKER SMITH said he knew districts in the Highlands where a six days' licence would be taken out to the great inconvenience of travellers and bicyclists. He also knew districts near Glasgow where the *bonâ fide* traveller went to get *bonâ fide* liquor. He thought the licensing authority ought to have authority to intervene in these matters. Licencees often declined to do what was to the general convenience of the public in order to follow their own idea of what was right.

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 76; Noes, 165. (Division List No. 153.)

AYES.

Asher, Alexander
Bolton, Thomas Dolling
Brigg, John
Brown, George M. (*Edinburgh*)
Brunner, Sir John Tomlinson
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Burt, Thomas
Caldwell, James
Cameron, Robert
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Corbett, A. Cameron (*Glasg.*)
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, Alfred (*Carmarthen*)
Denny Colonel
Douglas, Charles M. (*Lanark*)
Duncan, J. Hastings
Dunn, Sir William
Edwards, Frank
Elibank, Master of
Farquharson, Dr. Robert
Fenwick, Charles
Ferguson, R. C. Munro (*Leith*)
Griffith, Ellis J.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Charles Seale-
Horniman, Frederick John
Jones William (*Carnarvonshire*
Langley, Batty
Lawson Sir Wilfrid (*Cornwall*)
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leng, Sir John
Leveson-Gower, Frederick N. S.
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lough, Thomas
M'Crae, Sir George
M'Laren, Sir Charles Benj.
Mansfield, Horace Rendall
Markham, Arthur Basil
Morgan, J. Lloyd (*Carmarthen*)
Newnes, Sir George
Partington, Oswald
Philipps, John Wynford
Pirie, Duncan V.
Plummer, Walter R.
Priestley, Arthur
Roberts, John H. (*Denbighs.*)
Robertson, Edmund (*Dundee*)
Russell, T. W.
Samuel, Herbert L. (*Cleveland*)
Shaw-Stewart, M. H. (*Renfrew*)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair, John (*Forfarshire*)
Smith, H C (*Northumb. Tyneside*
Smith, James Parker (*Lanarks.*
Spear, John Ward
Stirling-Maxwell, Sir Jn. M.
Taylor, Theo. C. (*Radcliffe*)
Tennant, Harold John
Thomas, A. (*Carmarthen, E.*)
Thomas, Sir A. (*Glammorgan, E*
Thomas, David Alfred (*Merthyr*
Thomson, F. W. (*York W. R.*)
Toulmin, George
Ure, Alexander
Wallace, Robert
Wason, E. (*Clackmannan*)
Wason, John Cathcart (*Orkney*
Weir, James Galloway
White, Luke (*York, E. R.*)
Whitley, J. H. (*Halifax*)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Wilson, John (*Falkirk*)
Wilson, John (*Glasgow*)

Mr. Crombie.

Tellers for the Ayes—
Mr. Black and Mr. Hunter Craig.

NOES

Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Anstruther, H. T.
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Arrol, Sir William
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Aubrey-Fletcher, Rt. Hon. Sir H
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (*Manchr*
Balfour, Kenneth R. (*Christch*
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Bathurst, Hon. Allen Benj.
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.
Brassey, Albert
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Bull, William James
Butcher, John George
Cavendish, V. C. W. (*Derbyshire*
Cayzer, Sir Charles William
Cecil, Evelyn (*Aston Manor*)
Chamberlain, Rt Hn. J. A. (*Worc*
Chapman, Edward
Cochrane, Hon. T. H. A. E.
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Colston, Chas. Edw H. Athole
Cook, Sir Frederick Lucas
Cranborne, Viscount
Cross, Alexander (*Glasgow*)
Cross, Herb. Shepherd (*Bolton*)
Crossley, Rt. Hon. Sir Savile
Cullinan, J.
Dalkeith, Earl of
Devlin Joseph (*Kilenny, N.*)
Dickson, Charles Scott
Digby, John K. D. Wingfield-
Dimsdale, Rt. Hn. Sir Joseph C.
Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
Doogan, P. C.
Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas
Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
FitzGerald, Sir Robt. Penrose-
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Flower, Ernest
Forster, Henry William
Foster, Philip S. (*Warwick. S. W*
Fyler, John Arthur
Garfit, William
Godson, Sir Augustus Fredk.
Gordon, Hn. J. E. (*Elgin & Nrn.*
Gore, Hn G. R. C. Ormsby-(*Salop*
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Greene, Henry D. (*Shrewsbury*)
Gretton, John
Groves, James Grimble
Hambro, Charles Eric
Hamilton, Rt Hn Lord G (*Midd'x*
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Harris, Frederick Leverton
Hatch, Ernest Frederick Geo.
Heath, Arthur Howard (*Hanley*
Heath, James (*Staffords., N. W.*
Henderson, Sir Alexander
Hogg, Lindsay
Houston, Robert Paterson
Howard, J. (*Midd., Tottenham*)
Jameson, Major J. Eustace
Jeffreys, Rt. Hn. Arthur Fred
Johnstone, Heywood
Kenyon-Slaney, Col. W. (*Salop*
Kerr, John
Keswick, William
King, Sir Henry Seymour
Law, Andrew Bonar (*Glasgow*)
Lawson, John Grant (*Yorks. N. R*
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Llewellyn, Evan Henry
Lockwood, Lieut.-Col. A. R.
Long, Rt. Hn. W. (*Bristol, S.*
Lowe, Francis William
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Macdona, John Cumming
M'Arthur, Charles (*Liverpool*)
M'Iver, Sir Lewis (*Edinburgh W*
M'Killop, Jas. (*Stirlingshire*)
M'Killop W. (*Sligo North*)
Manners, Lord Cecil
Martin, Richard Biddulph
Meysey-Thompson, Sir H. M.
Milvain, Thomas
Mitchell, William (*Burnley*)
Montagu, Hon. J. Scott (*Hants.*)
Morgan, D. J. (*Walthamstow*)
Morgan, Hn. F. (*Monm'thsh.*)
Morrell, George Herbert
Morrison, James Archibald
Morton, Arthur H. Aylmer
Mount, William Arthur
Murray, Rt. Hn A. Graham (*Bute*
Murray, Charles J. (*Coventry*)
Myers, William Henry
Nolan, Col. John P. (*Galway, N.*
Orr-Ewing, Charles Lindsay
Pease, Herbert Pike (*Darlingt'n*
Peel, Hn Wm. Robert Wellesley
Percy, Earl
Pilkington, Lt.-Col. Richard
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Pretyman, Ernest George
Purvis, Robert
Randles, John S.
Ratcliff, R. F.
Rattigan, Sir William Henry
Reid, James (*Greenock*)
Remnant, James Farquharson
Renshaw, Sir Charles Bine
Roberts, Samuel (*Sheffield*)
Robertson, H. (*Hackney*)
Round, Rt. Hon. James
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Rutherford, John (*Lancashire*)
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford-
Sadler, Col. Saml. Alexander
Samuel, Harry S. (*Limehouse*)
Seely, Maj. J. E. B. (*Isle of Wight*
Sinclair, Louis (*Romford*)
Skewes-Cox, Thomas
Smith, Abel H. (*Hertford, E.*)
Smith, Hn. W. F. D. (*Strand*)
Stanley, Lord (*Lancs.*)
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Stroyan, John
Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
Talbot, Rt. Hn. J. G. (*Oxf'd Univ*
Taylor, Austin (*East Toxeth*)
Tollemache, Henry James
Tomlinson, Sir Wm. E. M.
Valentia, Viscount
Walrond, Rt. Hn. Sir William H
Webb, Col. William George
Welby, Lt-Col A. C. E. (*Taunton*
Whiteley, H, (*Ashton und. Lyne*
Wilson, A. Stanley (*York, E. R.*
Wilson-Todd, Wm. H. (*Yorks.*)
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Worsley-Taylor, Henry Wilson
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Young, Samuel

Tellers for the Noes—Sir Alexander Acland Hood and Mr. Fellowes.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 23, line 7, at beginning, to insert the words 'either (1).'"—(*The Lord Advocate.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Mr. A. GRAHAM MURRAY said it had been represented to him that the clause as it stood might inflict hardship on town restaurant keepers who, in places like Glasgow, were in the habit of providing breakfasts for large parties of excursionists and had no intention of supplying them with exciseable liquors. The clause would prevent them opening their doors before a certain hour in the morning, and that restriction, under the circumstances, was not desirable. He proposed to meet the difficulty by allowing restaurants to be opened earlier than usual for the sale of provisions and temperance drinks only.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 23, line 11, to leave out the word 'and,' and insert the words 'or (2) to open any restaurant for which a public-house certificate is held or keep the same open for the sale and consumption of provisions and refreshments of any kind other than exciseable liquors on such public or special occasion, and for that purpose only during such time, and before or beyond the hours prescribed by his certificate for opening and closing respectively, Sunday excepted, and in either case.' "—(*The Lord Advocate.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 23, line 34, after the word 'permission,' to insert the words 'to sell excisable liquors.' "—(*The Lord Advocate.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Mr. GROVES said Clause 41 proposed to give the licensing authority power to close licensed premises either wholly or partially on any occasion they might think fit. He proposed to move the omission of those words because he held that the power proposed to be given went beyond what was necessary. He could imagine some licensing bodies which might make rules and regulations of so drastic a nature as to be almost impossible of administration. It was very desirable that there should be uniformity in the administration of the licensing laws, and that power should not be given to close houses an unlimited number of days in any one year.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 23, lines 40 and 41, to leave out the words 'and on such other occasions as the licensing Court may deem fit and expedient for special reasons.' "—(*Mr. Groves.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Bill."

Sir J. STIRLING-MAXWELL thought the Government would make a very great mistake if they accepted this Amendment. The object of the Bill was to give a strong licensing authority power to deal with special questions coming before them. This was eminently a question on which, if they did their duty at all, they ought to be able to arrive at a reasonable decision. He had never heard any objection to this proposal except from those who were engaged in supplying the public with liquor. He hoped the House would leave it in the power of the licensing authority to make arrangements in the public interest, in the interest of public order, and the decent conduct of the trade on great public occasions.

Mr. A. GRAHAM MURRAY said the clause as it stood was carried against his opposition in the Committee. The original proposal related to New Year's Day only. He had not felt it his duty to invoke the powers of the Government to put aside what was done in Committee. He had however, put down an Amendment practically the same as that standing in the name of the hon. Member for Partick limiting the number of days to four in one year. He thought that would meet the views of hon. Gentlemen, and under the circumstances he should not seek to influence the decision of the House on this Amendment.

Mr. MUNRO FERGUSON hoped that what had fallen from the hon. Member for the College Division of Glasgow would not be lost on the Committee. He trusted that at any rate the Lord Advocate would adhere to his own proposal, for to limit the power of closing to New Year's Day would have a very prejudicial effect on the conduct of the licensing system.

Sir LEWIS McIVER said the Amendment seemed to him absolutely puerile and nugatory. It would defeat the very object of the clause and he hoped, therefore, it would not be accepted.

Mr. PARKER SMITH hoped the House would adhere to the provision with the limitation suggested by the

Lord Advocate. The matter was fully discussed in Committee, and though the feeling there was that the words as they stood would constitute a sufficient provision against compulsory closing on an undue number of days, and that they would preclude a licensing authority proposing to include Saturdays and pay days, there could be no objection to making the object of the clause clearer, and to showing that only exceptional and special occasions were to be dealt with. Anyone acquainted with Scotland well knew what a difference it made in the streets if at critical times the liquor shops were closed. The provision was carried in the Committee by twenty-seven to ten, and he hoped that on this question at least the English Members would allow themselves to be guided by the views of the Scottish Members on both sides of the House.

CAPTAIN SINCLAIR said it would be necessary to negative the Amendment in order that the Lord Advocate's limitation might be introduced.

THE EARL OF DALKEITH regretted that the Lord Advocate had not repeated the speech he made upstairs. It was, in his opinion, most undesirable that the licensing authorities should be able to close public houses on different days. Not to have a regular system would be most inconvenient.

MAJOR JAMESON (Clare, W.) intervened in the debate because he held this to be an Imperial question. If the clause were passed as it stood, it would be possible for the licensing authorities to close liquor shops on any day of the week they chose. He objected to that, and he hoped, therefore, that the Amendment would be pressed to a division. It would be a gross injustice to everybody connected with the trade, and a great inconvenience to the public. He did not like this wretched grandmotherly legislation. Presently they would be told by law what they were to have for breakfast. The liberty of the subject ought not to be thus infringed upon, and he therefore hoped that every Member of the House would support the Amendment.

MR. CROMBIE pointed out that these by-laws when made would not become operative until they had been approved by the Secretary for Scotland, and it was unlikely that unreasonable by-laws would be sanctioned.

SIR MARK STEWART hoped the House would not alter the clause. He had received many communications indicating that this was deemed to be one of the most valuable provisions of the Bill, and he hoped, therefore, it would not be passed in an emasculated form.

MR. DALZIEL said it was remarkable that the opposition to the clause came from two hon. Members, one from England and the other from Ireland. Surely the hon. Member for West Clare, if he were true to his Home Rule principles, would allow Scottish Members to settle this question for themselves. It was a purely Scottish question, and certainly did not rise to high Imperial heights. It was ridiculous to suggest that the Edinburgh or Dundee Councils were not competent to make by-laws with regard to a matter of that kind. He regretted very much the attitude of the Lord Advocate. Why did he not stand by the proposal as contained in the Bill? It was a pity he had no settled convictions. Let him institute an inquiry; it could have only one result. What was he going to do in regard to this Amendment?

MR. A. GRAHAM MURRAY: I shall vote against it.

MR. PIRIE (Aberdeen, N.) hoped the English supporters of the Government would be informed that they were at perfect liberty to vote how they liked on this question.

MR. BUCHANAN did not think the Lord Advocate had behaved quite fairly in this matter. [Cries of "Oh, oh!"] There was a majority of three to one in the Committee in favour of the clause, but now the right hon. Gentleman was proposing to introduce limitations, which showed that he had not much confidence in the authorities he was setting up. The clause did not empower the licensing authorities to shut up licensed premises as many days as they liked; it merely gave them a certain discretion on certain public occasions, and that discretion was subject to the veto of the Secretary for Scotland. It was, in fact, the most limited power they could give to the licensing authorities they were setting up.

MR. GROVES explained that he moved the Amendment on behalf of an hon. friend. It was only fair to himself to state that he had never done any business in Scotland, and he had no pecuniary interest in that country.

SIR J. FERGUSSON, in order to come to a harmonious conclusion, suggested it should be on a definite number of occasions to be approved by the Secretary for Scotland. If so agreed the number should not exceed five.

SIR J. STIRLING MAXWELL said there was no understanding in Committee on the part of the Ministry with regard to this point.

MR. ASHER said he was responsible for the instructions in Grand Committee for the words "special reasons." There was no understanding that the operation of this part of the clause should be limited to a given number of days. Indeed, the words at the end, "for special reasons," were inserted for the express purpose of preventing the licensing authorities from closing houses. The number of days might vary from time to time. There might be a special day one year which might not be applicable in another year. The view taken in Committee was that wider discretion should be given to the licensing authorities in this matter.

MR. BRYCE said it appeared to him that this provisional power was guarded not only by the addition of the words "for special reasons," but also by the requirement of the consent of the Secretary for Scotland. He could not imagine it being opposed. His impression was that it was not likely to be extended to the number of days suggested, and the House did not incur the slightest risk in accepting it. He was glad to hear that the Lord Advocate was himself of that opinion.

Question put, and agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 23, line 40, to leave out the word 'occasions' and insert the words 'days not being more than four in any one year."—(*The Lord Advocate.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'occasions' stand part of the Bill."

MR. DALZIEL said it seemed to him in view of the decision that the House had just arrived at, they ought to be given some reason why they should limit it to four days in the year, because the whole debate turned on the question of whether they were going to trust the authorities. If that were so, they had decided to trust them, and why should they cut down their powers and limit them to four or five days. It seemed to him that they were unnecessarily restricting the authority of their powers, and therefore he opposed the Amendment.

MR. PARKER SMITH did not think the Amendment really limited the powers to any extent. The Lord Advocate had met them fairly on this point.

MR. MUNRO FERGUSON also thought the Lord Advocate had met them fairly. He was ready to support the Amendment.

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 65; Noes, 181. (Division List No. 154.)

AYES.

Asher, Alexander
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Bolton, Thomas Dolling
Brigg, John
Brown, George M. (*Edinburgh*
Brunner, Sir John Tomlinson
Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Caldwell, James

Mr. Buchanan.

Corbett, A. Cameron (*Glasgow*
Craig, Robert Hunter (*Lanark*
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Davies, Alfred (*Carmarthen*)
Duncan, J. Hastings
Dunn, Sir William
Edwards, Frank
Elibank, Master of
Farquharson, Dr. Robert
Fenwick, Charles
Furness, Sir Christopher
Griffith, Ellis J.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Hardie, J. Keir (*Merthyr Tydvil*
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Charles Seale-
Horniman, Frederick John
Jones, William (*Carnarvonsh.*
Lambert, George
Langley, Batty
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (*Cornwall*)
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leigh, Sir Joseph
Leveson-Gower, Frederick N.S.
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, David
Lough, Thomas
M'Crae, George
M'Laren, Sir Charles Benj.
Mansfield, Horace Rendall
Markham, Arthur Basil
Morgan, J. Lloyd (*Carmarthen*
Moulton, John Fletcher
Newnes, Sir George
Partington, Oswald
Philipps, John Wynford
Pirie, Duncan V.
Priestley, Arthur
Roberts, John H. (*Denbighs.*)
Robson, William Snowdon
Samuel Herbert L. (*Cleveland*
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair, John (*Forfarshire*)
Taylor, Theodore C. (*Radcliffe*
Thomas, A. (*Carmarthen, E.*)
Thomas, Sir A. (*Glamorgan, E.*
Thomas, David Alfred (*Merthyr*
Toulmin, George
Wallace, Robert
Wason, Eugene (*Clackmannan*
Wason, John Cathcart (*Orkney*
Weir, James Galloway
White, Luke (*York, E. R.*
Whitely, J. H. (*Halifax*)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Dalziel and Mr. Harmsworth.

NOES.

Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Anstruther, H. T.
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Arrol, Sir William
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Aubrey-Fletcher, Rt. Hn. Sir H.
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Baird, John George Alexander
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J. (*Manch'r*
Balfour, Kenneth R. (*Christch*
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Bathurst, Hon. Allen Benj.
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.
Bill, Charles
Black, Alexander William
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith
Brassey, Albert
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. Sir John
Butcher, John George
Cavendish, R. F. (*N. Lancs.*)
Cavendish, V. C. W. (*Derbyshire*
Cayzer, Sir Charles William
Cecil, Evelyn (*Aston Manor*)
Chamberlain, Rt Hn. J. A (*Worc.*
Chapman, Edward
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Cochrane, Hn. Thos. H. A. E.
Collings, Right Hon. Jesse
Colston, Chas. Edw H. Athole
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Cranborne, Viscount
Cross, Alexander (*Glasgow*
Cross, Herb. Shepherd (*Bolton*
Crossley, Rt. Hon. Sir Savile
Cullinan, J.
Dalkeith, Earl of
Denny, Colonel
Devlin, Joseph (*Kilkenny, N.*)
Digby, John K. D. Wingfield-
Dimsdale, Rt. Hn. Sir Joseph C.
Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
Doogan, P. C.
Douglas, Charles M. (*Lanark*)
Egerton, Hon. A. de Tatton
Elliot, Hon A. Ralph Douglas
Faber, E. B. (*Hants, W.*)
Ferguson, R. C. Munro (*Leith*)
Fergusson, Rt Hn. Sir J. (*Manc'r*
Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Flower, Ernest
Forster, Henry William
Foster, P. S. (*Warwick, S. W.*
Fyler, John Arthur
Garfit, William
Godson, Sir Augustus Frederick
Gordon, Hn J E (*Elgin and Nairn*
Gore, Hn. G R. C. Ormsby-(*Salop*
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Greene, Hy. D. (*Shrewsbury*)
Gretton, John
Groves, James Grimble
Hall, Edward Marshall
Hambro, Charles Eric
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Harris, Frederick Leverton
Hatch, Ernest Frederick G.
Heath, Arthur H. (*Hanley*)
Heath, James (*Staffords. N. W.*
Henderson, Sir Alexander
Hobhouse, Rt Hn H. (*Somers't, E*
Hogg, Lindsay
Houston, Robert Paterson
Jameson, Major J. Eustace
Jeffreys, Rt. Hon. Arthur Fred.
Johnstone, Heywood
Kenyon-Slaney, Col. W. (*Salop*)
Keswick, William
Kilbride, Denis
King, Sir Henry Seymour
Law, Andrew Bonar (*Glasgow*
Lawrence, Wm. F. (*Liverpool*
Lawson, J. Grant (*Yorks., N. R.*)
Lees, Sir Elliott (*Birkenhead*)
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leng, Sir John
Llewellyn, Evan Henry
Lockwood, Lieut.-Col. A. R.
Long, Rt. Hon. Walter (*Bristol, S*
Lowe, Francis William
Lloyd, Archie Kirkman
Macdona, John Cumming
MacIver, David (*Liverpool*)
M'Iver, Sir Lewis (*Edinburgh W*
M'Killop, James (*Stirlingshire*
M'Killop, W. (*Sligo, North*)
Martin, Richard Biddulph
Meysey-Thompson, Sir H. M.
Milvain, Thomas
Molesworth, Sir Lewis
Montagu, Hon. J. Scott (*Hants.*)
Morgan, D. J. (*Walthamstow*)
Morgan, Hn. F. (*Monm'thsh.*)
Morrell, George Herbert
Morrison, James Archibald
Morton, Arthur H. Aylmer
Mount, William Arthur
Murray, Rt. Hn A Graham (*Bute*
Murray, Chas. J. (*Coventry*)
Myers, William Henry
Nicholson, William Graham
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, Conor (*Mayo, N.*)
Orr-Ewing, Charles Lindsay
Pease, H. Pike (*Darlington*)
Peel, Hn Wm. Robert Wellesley
Percy, Earl
Pilkington, Colonel Richard
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Plummer, Walter R.
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Pretyman, Ernest George
Purvis, Robert
Randles, John S.
Ratcliff, R. F.
Rattigan, Sir William Henry
Reid, James (*Greenock*)
Remnant, James Farquharson
Renshaw, Sir Charles Bine
Roberts, Samuel (*Sheffield*)
Robertson, Herbert (*Hackney*)
Roche, John
Round, Rt. Hon. James
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Runciman, Walter
Russell, T. W.
Rutherford, John (*Lancashire*
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford-
Sadler, Col. Samuel Alexander

Seely, Maj. J. E. B. (*Isle of Wight*
Shaw-Stewart, M. H. (*Renfrew*)
Sinclair, Louis (*Romford*)
Skewes-Cox, Thomas
Smith, Abel H. (*Hertford, East*
Smith, H C (*North'mb. Tyneside*
Smith, James Parker (*Lanarks*)
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (*Strand*)
Spear, John Ward
Stanley, Lord (*Lancs.*)
Stewart, Sir Mark J. M'Taggart
Stirling-Maxwell, Sir Jn. M.
Stroyan, John
Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
Talbot, Rt. Hn. J. G. *Ox'd Univ.*
Taylor, Austin (*East Toxteth*
Tennant, Harold John
Thomas, F. Freeman (*Hastings*
Thomson, F. W. (*York, W.R.*
Tollemache, Henry James
Tomlinson, Sir Wm. E. M.
Valentia, Viscount
Walrond, Rt. Hn. Sir William H
Webb, Col. William George
Welby, Lt-Col. A. C. E (*Taunton*
Whiteley, H. (*Ashton-u.-Lyne*)
Wilson, A. S. (*York, E. R.*)
Wilson, John (*Falkirk*)
Wilson, John (*Glasgow*)
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Worsley-Taylor Henry Wilson
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Young, Samuel

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Mr. Fellowes.

Proposed words there inserted in the Bill.

* MR. SHAW STEWART (Renfrew, E.) moved—

"In Clause 41, page 24, line 4, leave out 'excisable liquors' and insert 'wines and spirits."

He said the object of the Amendment was to limit the corking or the stoppering of bottles to wines and spirits. When this Amendment was proposed in Committee it was only lost by a few votes. He would point out that under the Bill it would still be possible to obtain bottled beer and whisky from the grocers, and surely draught ales were milder than bottled ales and whisky. Another argument in favour of the Amendment was that there were areas of considerable extent in big towns where there were no public houses, and where people were in the habit of getting draught liquors from the licensed grocers. If this Amendment were not accepted would they not be driving the people either to consume stronger liquors or to agitate for more public houses to be set up in their midst. If he thought this Amendment would act against temperance he should not propose it, but he did think it was reasonable and convenient for the public that it should be passed. It would encourage the sale of light rather than strong liquor, and he would point out that neither the Majority nor the Minority Report advocated any change in this respect.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 24, line 4, to leave out the words 'excisable liquors,' and insert the words 'wines and spirits.'"—(*Mr. Shaw-Stewart.*)

Question proposed, "That the words 'exciseable liquors' stand part of the Bill."

MR. BUCHANAN said he looked upon this as a very substantial alteration in the Bill. It meant that the very considerable amount of drink sold by the grocers would be sold openly on draught and not in sealed vessels. The trade which they carried on would be considerably altered by this Amendment, and it ought not to be accepted without some explanation from the Lord Advocate.

MR. A. GRAHAM MURRAY did not think the point a very great one. It only applied to draught beer sold by grocers. So far as he could gather from the evidence brought before him he did not think there had been any abuse in this matter by the grocers, and accordingly in Committee he voted to leave out the words "excisable liquors." So far as the Amendment went it was then beaten, not by a large majority, but by twenty-one to fifteen, and, without in any way binding the Government, he would follow his own opinion and vote in its support.

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 76; Noes, 159. (Division List No. 155.)

AYES.

Asher, Alexander
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Black, Alexander William
Bolton, Thomas Dolling
Brigg, John
Brown, George M. (*Edinburgh*
Brunner, Sir John Tomlinson
Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
Caldwell, James
Corbett, A. Cameron (*Glasg.*)
Craig, Robert Hunter (*Lanark*
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Cross, Alexander (*Glasgow*)
Dalziel, James Henry
Douglas, Charles M. (*Lanark*)
Duncan, J. Hastings
Dunn, Sir William
Edwards, Frank
Elibank, Master of
Farquharson, Dr. Robert
Fenwick, Charles
Ferguson, R. C. Munro (*Leith*)
Furness, Sir Christopher
Griffith, Ellis J.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Hardie, J. Keir (*Merthyr Tyd*
Harmsworth, R. Leicester
Hayne, Rt. Hn. Charles Seale-
Hobhouse, Rt Hon H (*Som'rs't, E*
Horniman, Frederick John
Jones, William (*Carnarvonsh.*
Lambert, George
Langley, Batty
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (*Cornwall*
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leigh, Sir Joseph
Leng, Sir John
Leveson-Gower, Frederick N.S.
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lough, Thomas
M'Crae, George
M'Laren, Sir Charles Benj.
Mansfield, Horace Rendall
Markham, Arthur Basil
Morgan, J. Lloyd (*Carmarthen*
Moulton, John Fletcher
Newnes, Sir George
Partington, Oswald
Philipps, John Wynford
Pilkington, Colonel Richard
Pirie, Duncan V.
Priestley, Arthur
Rickett, J. Compton
Roberts, John H. (*Denbighs.*)
Runciman, Walter
Russell, T. W.
Samuel, Herbt. L. (*Cleveland*)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair, John (*Forfarshire*)
Smith, H. C (*North'mb, Tyneside*
Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
Taylor, Theo. C. (*Radcliffe*)
Tennant, Harold John
Thomas, Abel (*Carmarthen, E.*
Thomas, Sir A. (*Glamorgan, E.*
Thomas, David Alfred (*Merthyr*
Thomas, F. Freeman (*Hastings*
Thomson, F. W. (*York, W.R*).
Toulmin, George
Wason, J. Cathcart (*Orkney*)
Weir, James Galloway
White, Luke (*York, E.R.*)
Whitley, J. H. (*Halifax*)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Buchanan and Mr. Eugene Wason.

NOES.

Acland-Hood, Capt. Sir A. F.
Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Anstruther, H. T.
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Arrol, Sir William
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Aubrey-Fletcher, Rt. Hn. Sir H.
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Baird, John George Alexander
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J. (*Manch'r.*
Balfour, Kenneth R. (*Christch*
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Bathurst, Hon. Allen Benj.
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.
Bill, Charles
Brassey, Albert
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Bull, William James
Butcher, John George
Cavendish, R. F. (*N. Lancs.*)
Cavendish, V. C. W. (*Derbyshire*
Cayzer, Sir Charles William
Cecil, Evelyn (*Aston Manor*)
Chapman, Edward
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Cochrane, Hon. Thomas H. A. E.
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colston, Chas. Edw. H. Athole
Cranborne, Viscount
Cross, Herb. Shepherd (*Bolton*
Crossley, Sir Savile
Dalkeith, Earl of
Denny, Colonel
Devlin, Joseph (*Kilkenny, N.*)
Digby, John K. D. Wingfield-
Dimsdale, Rt. Hon. Sir Jos. C.
Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
Egerton, Hon. A. de Tatton
Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas
Faber, E. B. (*Hants, W.*)
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Ed.
Fergusson, Rt Hn. Sir J. (*Manc'r*
Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Flower, Ernest
Forster, Henry William
Foster, P. S. (*Warwick, S. W.*
Fyler, John Arthur
Garfit, William
Godson, Sir Augustus Frederick
Gordon, Hn J. E (*Elgin and N'rn*
Gore, Hn G. R. C Ormsby-(*Salop*
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Gray, Ernest (*West Ham*)
Greene, Hy. D. (*Shrewsbury*)
Gretton, John
Groves, James Grimble
Hall, Edward Marshall
Hambro, Charles Eric
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Harris, Frederick Leverton
Heath, Arthur H. (*Hanley*)
Heath, James (*Staffs., N. W.*)
Henderson, Sir Alexander
Hogg, Lindsay
Houston, Robert Paterson
Jameson, Major J. Eustace
Jeffreys, Rt. Hn. Arthur Fred
Johnstone, Heywood
Kenyon-Slaney, Col. W. (*Salop*
Kerr, John
Keswick, William
King, Sir Henry Seymour
Law, Andrew Bonar (*Glasgow*)
Lawrence, Wm. F. (*Liverpool*
Lawson, John Grant (*Yorks. N. R*
Lees, Sir Elliott (*Birkenhead*)
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Lockwood, Lieut.-Col. A. R.
Lowe, Francis William
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Macdona, John Cumming
MacIver, David (*Liverpool*)
M'Arthur, Charles (*Liverpool*)
M'Iver, Sir Lewis (*Edinburgh W*
M'Killop, James (*Stirlingshire*
M'Killop, W. (*Sligo, North*)
Manners, Lord Cecil
Martin, Richard Biddulph
Meysey-Thompson, Sir H. M.
Milvain, Thomas
Molesworth, Sir Lewis
Montagu, Hon. J. Scott (*Hants.*
Morgan, Hn. F. (*Monm'thsh.*)
Morrell, George Herbert
Morrison, James Archibald
Morton, Arthur H. Aylmer
Mount, William Arthur
Murphy, John
Murray, Rt Hn A. Graham (*Bute*

Murray, Charles J. (*Coventry*)
Myers, William Henry
Nicholson, William Graham
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, Conor (*Mayo, N.*)
Orr-Ewing, Charles Lindsay
Pease, Herbt. Pike (*Darlington*
Peel, Hn. Wm. Robert Wellesley
Percy, Earl
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Plummer, Walter R.
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Pretyman, Ernest George
Purvis, Robert
Randles, John S.
Ratcliff, R. F.
Rattigan, Sir William Henry
Reid, James (*Greenock*)
Remnant, James Farquharson
Roberts, Samuel (*Sheffield*)
Robertson, Herbert (*Hackney*)
Round, Rt. Hon. James
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Rutherford, John (*Lancashire*)
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford-
Sadler, Col. Samuel Alexander
Seely, Maj. J. E. B(*Isle of Wight*
Sinclair, Louis (*Romford*)
Skewes-Cox, Thomas
Smith, Abel H. (*Hertford, East*
Smith, James Parker (*Lanarks*
Smith, Hn. W. F. D. (*Strand*)
Spear, John Ward
Stewart, Sir M. J. M'Taggart
Stirling-Maxwell, Sir John M
Stroyan, John
Talbot, Rt. Hn. J. G(*Oxf'd Univ*
Taylor, Austin (*East Toxteth*)
Tollemache, Henry James
Tomlinson, Sir Wm. Edw. M
Valentia, Viscount
Walrond, Rt. Hn. Sir Wm. H.
Webb, Colonel William George
Welby, Lt-Col. A. C. E(*Taunton*
Whiteley, H. (*Ashton-und-Lyne*
Wilson, A. Stanley (*York, E.R.*
Wilson, John (*Glasgow*)
Worsley-Taylor, Henry Wilson
Wortley, Rt. Hn. C. B. Stuart
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Young, Samuel

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Shaw-Stewart and Sir Charles Renshaw.

Words "wines and spirits" there inserted in the Bill.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 24, line 19, to leave out the words 'with other information as may be considered by them necessary.'"—(*Mr. Gretton.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Bill."

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

SIR JOHN LENG moved to omit the words in Clause 42 "to be consumed on the premises." He said that the object of the Amendment was to ensure the premises of grocers and dealers who held licences being dealt with in precisely the same way as ordinary licensed premises. He failed to see why any distinction should be drawn.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 25, line 2, to leave out the words 'to be consumed on the premises.'"—(*Sir John Leng.*)

MR. A. GRAHAM MURRAY did not think it was at all necessary that the licensing authority should have the same command over the structural arrangements of grocers' premises as they had in the case of public-houses. He should therefore resist the Amendment.

Question put, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Bill."

The House proceeded to a division.

Sir A. ACLAND-HOOD and Mr. AILWYN FELLOWES were appointed Tellers for the Ayes; but no Member being willing to act as Teller for the Noes, Mr. SPEAKER declared that the Ayes had it.

SIR JOHN LENG moved to omit the words "in that part of the premises where excisable liquor is sold or consumed." He said that this raised a different question from the last Amendment, and referred particularly to the sanitary conveniences, which it was very desirable should be brought under the supervision of the licensing authority.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 25, lines 28 and 29, to leave out the words 'in that part of the premises where excisable liquor is sold or consumed."—(*Sir John Leng.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Bill."

And, it being Midnight, consideration of the Bill, as amended (by the Standing Committee), stood adjourned.

Bill, as amended (by the Standing Committee), to be further considered upon Wednesday.

DAY INDUSTRIAL SCHOOLS (IRELAND) BILL.

Considered in Committee; Committee report Progress; to sit again to-morrow.

CHURCH DISCIPLINE BILL.

Considered in Committee; Committee report Progress; to sit again to-morrow.

Adjourned at seven minutes after Twelve o'clock.

An Asterisk (*) at the commencement of a Speech indicates revision by the Member.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Tuesday, 14*th July*, 1903.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE.

Report from, That the Standing Orders not complied with in respect of the Ulster and Connaught Light Railways Bill ought to be dispensed with, subject to Clause 14 being struck out of the Bill, unless the special resolution of the Clogher Valley Railway Company approving of the Bill be proved before the Examiners before the Third Reading of the Bill.

Read, and agreed to.

Hainault Forest Bill. The Chairman of Committees informed the House that the opposition to the Bill was withdrawn: The order made on the 18th of June last discharged, and Bill committed.

Mullingar, Kells, and Drogheda Railway Bill. The King's consent signified; and, Bill reported from the Select Committee, with Amendments.

East Ham Improvement Bill; Scottish Central Electric Power Bill [H.L.]; Woolwich Borough Council Bill; Watford and Edgware Railway Bill. Reported, with Amendments.

Great Southern and Western Railway Bill. Reported, without Amendment.

Strabane and Letterkenny Railway Bill; Baker Street and Waterloo Railway (Extension of Time) Bill; Sheffield Corporation Bill. Moved, That the order made on the 16th March last, "That no Private Bill brought from the House of Commons shall be read a second time after the 18th day of June next," be dispensed with, and that the Bills be now read 2^{a}; agreed to; Bills read 2^{a} accordingly.

Wood Green Urban District Council Bill; Baker Street and Waterloo Railway (Transfer) Bill, now Baker Street and Waterloo Railway Bill; Walker and Wallsend Union Gas Bill; Midland Great Western Railway of Ireland Bill. Read 3^{a}, with the Amendments, and passed, and returned to the Commons.

Kingston-upon-Hull Corporation Bill; Strabane and Letterkenny Railway Bill; Sheffield Corporation Bill. Committed: The Committees to be proposed by the Committee of Selection.

Baker Street and Waterloo Railway (Extension of Time) Bill. Committed.

South Shields Corporation Bill. Report from the Select Committee, That the Committee had not proceeded with the consideration of the Bill, no parties having appeared in opposition thereto; read, and ordered to lie on the Table: The orders made on the 30th of June and Thursday last discharged; and Bill committed.

Castleblaney, Keady, and Armagh Railway (Extension of Time) Bill; Croydon and District Electric Tramways Bill. Brought from the Commons; read 1^{a}; and referred to the Examiners.

Port Talbot Railway and Docks Bill. [H.L.]. Returned from the Commons agreed to.

Frinton-on-Sea Sea Defences Bill [H.L.]. Returned from the Commons agreed to, with Amendments.

Merthyr Tydfil Urban District Council Bill. Returned from the Commons with the Amendments agreed to.

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 9) Bill; Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 5) Bill. House in Committee (according to Order): Bills reported without Amendment: Standing Committee negatived; and Bills to be read 3^{a} on Thursday next.

Pier and Harbour Provisional Orders (No. 5) Bill. House in Committee (according to Order): An Amendment made: Standing Committee negatived: The Report of Amendment to be received on Thursday next

Glasgow Corporation Tramways Order Confirmation Bill [H.L.]; Glasgow Corporation (Police) Order Confirmation Bill [H.L.]; Irvine and District Water Board Order Confirmation Bill [H.L.]; Lanarkshire Tramways Order Confirmation Bill [H.L.]. Read 2^{a} (according to Order), and (pursuant to the Private Legislation Procedure (Scotland) Act, 1899), deemed to have been reported from the Committee: Bills to be read 3ª on Thursday next.

Pier and Harbour Provisional Orders (No. 2) Bill; Pier and Harbour Provisional Orders (No. 3) Bill. Read 3ª (according to Order), with the Amendments, and passed, and returned to the Commons.

Pier and Harbour Provisional Orders (No. 4) Bill. Read 3ª (according to Order), with the Amendment, and passed, and returned to the Commons.

Metropolitan Police Provisional Order Bill; Harrow Road and Paddington Tramways Bill. Report from the Committee of Selection, That the Lord Colchester be proposed to the House as a member of the Select Committee on the said Bills in the place of the Earl of Craven; read, and agreed to.

Dublin, Wicklow, and Wexford Railway Bill; Ebbw Vale Water and Improvement Bill; Western Valleys (Monmouthshire) Sewerage Board Bill. Report from the Committee of Selection, That the Earl of Haddington, the Lord Kintore (*E. Kintore*), and the Lord Colchester be proposed to the House as members of the Select Committee on the said Bills in the place of the Earl Waldegrave, the Earl of Powis, and the Lord Harris, and that the Lord Kintore (*E. Kintore*) be Chairman of the said Committee; read, and agreed to.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

INDIA (ACCOUNTS AND ESTIMATES 1903-1904.)

Explanatory Memorandum by the Secretary of State for India. Presented [by Command], and ordered to lie on the Table.

LICENSING ACT AMENDMENT BILL. [H.L.].

[SECOND READING.]

Order of the Day for the Second Reading read.

THE EARL OF WEMYSS: My Lords, in the few remarks which I shall make in commending this Bill to the attention of your Lordships it is not my intention to touch on the question of drink, in regard to which, I think, many foolish attempts have been made at legislation. It is rather to a question of justice that I shall venture to call your attention—justice to a body of traders who carry on a trade for the benefit of the public which produces enormous revenues to the country. I think altogether the liquor traffic, in one form or another, brings in £34,000,000 a year, and these traders who carry on this business are now subject to what I hold to be a very grave injustice, for they may at any moment lose their licences through no fault of their own, but through the fad or crank of some teetotal magistrates. The Bill which I now ask your Lordships to read a second time is not my Bill. When I presented it I stated that it was Lord Bramwell's Bill. What is the history of this Bill? I find in the last page of the "Memoirs of Lord Bramwell," by Mr. Charles Fairfield, these words—

> "Trial of the appeal case in the House of Lords of Sharpe *v.* Wakefield having brought to light some flagrant injustices possible under the Licensing Acts, Lord Bramwell drafted a short Bill to remedy those injustices."

That is the Bill which I venture to present to your Lordships to-night. It was, I think, in the early part of 1894 that Lord Bramwell drafted and brought in this measure. At that time there were meetings of what is commonly called "the Trade" in all directions, and the Government and the Members of the Opposition were approached upon it. Lord Salisbury, who was then in Opposition, when asked to support the Bill, advised those who were promoting it not to press it at that time, but to wait patiently until after the General Election, when, he said, there might probably be a change of Government, and the Government who would then come in would look with favour on this kind of legislation. A dissolution took place in 1895, and a very large majority was given to Lord Salisbury's Government, but they did nothing to remove this great injustice except to appoint Lord

Peel's Commission. They shunted the question on to the shoulders of a Commission, which is not an unusal practice. But that Commission did not at all touch this question of licencees losing their licences in the way I have described. As a result of nothing having been done, cases are constantly occurring of magistrates, from no cause whatever, except their antipathy to drink, refusing to renew licences. This property, I would remind your Lordships, is one of the assets of the Government. Licences are assessed for the death duties like any other kind of property, but notwithstanding this we have these licences taken away without any justifiable cause. It was the case of Sharpe *v.* Wakefield which drew Lord Bramwell's attention particularly to this injustice. Since I presented this Bill there have been 187 petitions in favour of it. These petitions have not come from individual licence holders, but from the chief associations connected with the various branches of the liquor trade in all the big towns throughout the country—from Manchester, Liverpool, Sheffield, Leeds, Bristol, Bradford, etc. The petitioners, in their petition, submit—

> "That the trade or business of a licensed victualler or beer retailer has existed a great number of years and has been the subject of a great many Acts of Parliament having for their object the regulation of such trade; that the latter section of the trade—namely, beer retailers—has enjoyed the special protection of an Act passed by the Legislature in 1869, whereby magistrates have no power to refuse the renewal of a licence then in existence except on such grounds as are therein inserted to protect the good order and well-being of society without in any way limiting the natural operation of legitimate trade, and all licencees in Ireland enjoy a similar protection; that recently great uncertainty has been experienced by licenced victuallers or holders of full licences, inasmuch as by the law as it now stands, as laid down on appeal before your Lordships' House in the case of Sharpe *v.* Wakefield, a licencee has no legal security for the renewal of his licence, and is now subject to the arbitrary caprice of the licensing authority."

In this petition reference is made to the state of the law in Ireland. We hear a great deal about justice to Ireland, but what I ask for in this case is justice to England and Scotland. Your Lordships' House is the highest Court of Appeal in all questions of justice, and I appeal to your Lordships to do justice in this case. I have not the least idea what action His Majesty's Government propose to take with regard to this Bill. I know it is impossible to carry a Bill in opposition to the Government. In another place Sir William Hart Dyke has brought in a Bill to suspend the power of licensing justices to take away licences, but I understand that the Government have given him no hope of support. I would remind the House that the Bill now before it is not of my drafting. It is the Bill of that great lawyer and wise man, Lord Bramwell, who thought it absolutely necessary in order to secure justice to licence holders. By his death we have lost one of the wisest men and a man who put common sense before sentiment in legislation, a thing very rare and much wanting in these days. The Bill, the Second Reading of which I now move, provides that—

> "Licensing justices shall not be at liberty in the case of premises licensed at the time of the passing of this Act to refuse the renewal or transfer of a licence for the sale of any intoxicating liquors in any such premises except upon one or more of the grounds specified in Section 8 of the Wine and Beerhouse Act, 1869, but nothing herein contained shall limit or extend their discretion in the grant or refusal of applications for a new licence. When an application for a renewal or transfer of a licence is refused the justices shall specify in writing to the applicant the ground of their decision."

Moved, That the Bill be now read 2^a.—(*The Earl of Wemyss.*)

THE LORD CHANCELLOR (The Earl of HALSBURY): My Lords, I hope my noble friend will not put your Lordships to the necessity of dividing on this Bill. I can assure him that it is the intention of His Majesty's Government to introduce a Bill upon the subject as early as possible in the approaching session, and the only object of dividing your Lordships on the question to-day would be prematurely, I think, to ask your Lordships to commit yourselves to some sort of legislation on the subject which might be inconvenient afterwards. As I can assure my noble friend that it is the intention of His Majesty's Government to deal with this subject at the earliest possible moment next session, I trust that he will not put your Lordships to the necessity of dividing.

THE EARL OF WEYMSS: After what has fallen from the noble and learned Earl on the Woolsack I will not put the House to the trouble of dividing. It was with a view of ascertaining what the Government intended to do in the matter that I moved the Second Reading of this Bill. I thank the Lord Chancellor for his assurance that a Bill will be introduced by the Government at the earliest possible moment next session.

Motion, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

MOTOR-CARS BILL [H.L.].

[SECOND READING.]

Order of the Day for the Second Reading read.

Moved, That the Bill be now read 2^a.—(*Lord Balfour of Burleigh.*)

*THE MARQUESS OF GRANBY: My Lords, I must apologise to your Lordships for again addressing you on this subject, but I confess that the text of the Bill does not present quite as favourable an appearance as the speech of the noble Lord in moving the First Reading would have led one to believe. There is no doubt that the Bill itself constitutes an admirable framework, but I think it requires in some places a considerable amount of stiffening and alteration. What are the considerations by which we should be guided in dealing with this measure? The pre-eminent consideration must be the safety and comfort of the public as users of the highways of this country; and secondly, we are equally bound to take into consideration the motor-car industry and the proper and legitimate convenience of those persons who may be fortunate enough to own and drive, or be driven by others in, motor-cars. It has been said by some persons, who, I think, are generally connected with the motor-car industry, that a certain amount of the objections which have been raised to those who we think very often drive most recklessly are vindictive, and simply intended to cripple the motor-car industry. I should think there is no human being who is in the slightest degree anxious to in any way interfere with the due expansion of any great industry in this country, and I am sure I am amongst those who wish to see this particular trade very largely developed. But I cannot help thinking that those who are doing most to injure the industry are those persons who drive their motor-cars to the danger and injury of the public, and I am confident that the motor-car industry is far more likely to be injured by disregard of the public safety than by any legislation. It is rather by legislation on behalf of the public, and by seeing that they are legitimately and properly protected, that the industry itself will be very largely benefited.

I do not believe, for one moment, that the industry will be benefited by the continuous building of very high-speed racing cars. On the contrary, where the benefit, in the long run, will come in will be in the adaptation of the motor principles to the great commercial vans, to agricultural implements, and, in fact, to all those slower moving vehicles on the road which will eventually become very common. The other night the noble Earl behind me, Lord Mayo, speaking on that point, said he hoped that every one would take a fair view of the question and not attempt to cripple this industry, and he referred to the great interest that had been taken in the motor-car race in Ireland. If I may branch off for one moment to a subject which is not absolutely in this Bill, I would venture to express the hope that we have seen the last of motor-car racing on the public roads in this country. I cannot see that it is right or fair that the roads should be taken up for these purposes, that great numbers of policemen and His Majesty's troops should be employed to look after the safety of the public and those racing in the cars, and that public money should be spent on such an object.

Turning to the provisions of the Bill itself, many of the clauses appear to me to have, at any rate, the foundation and the making of a most excellent measure, and no doubt many of your Lordships are thinking of putting down, for the next stage, such Amendments as will strengthen and improve the Bill. The first matter upon which I should like to ask for a little information, and to offer some suggestions, is the clause which deals with the licensing of drivers. On that point I trust sincerely that the Government will see their way to either inserting, or accepting, an Amendment which will render it necessary for every person, male or female, paid or unpaid, who may drive a motor-car to hold a licence to do so. I can see no reason for making any exemption, and I feel sure your Lordships hold a similar opinion. As a matter of fact, as your Lordships are well aware, no one can navigate even his own yacht unless he first obtains a Board of Trade certificate of his competency as a master, and I can see no reason why anyone should drive one of the most dangerous engines that has ever been placed on the public roads in this country without being compelled to have a licence.

When we come to the question of speed I think the Bill appears to need some alteration. It does appear to me that the proposal to place the control of speed in the hands of the County Councils through an order of the Local Government Board is a somewhat cumbrous procedure. I hardly know what to suggest as an alternative if the County Council is to remain the main factor as regards the regulation of speed in the country, but surely it might be an extremely lengthy process to get an order confirmed by the Local Government Board saying that a mile or two miles of any particular county, or even less, is a dangerous area. You would then have to have some very large sign stating the speed at which motor cars are allowed to go while passing through that area. If those boards are put up all over England you will be taking away largely from the beauty of many of our high roads, and you will be putting up structures in the nature of those extremely offensive advertisement hoardings which we see all over the country. I think that particular method of regulating speed is rather a doubtful one. However, I believe there are other noble Lords who have suggestions to make on that point, and I shall not press it. There is one other point to which I would draw your Lordships' attention, and which, I think, is worthy of some consideration. Nothing is said in the Bill as to whether a person, who has been summarily convicted and sentenced to imprisonment and has given notice of appeal, will be allowed to continue driving during the interval before the hearing of his appeal. Personally I think the licence should be suspended during the interval.

However much this Bill may be amended, and if it has the good fortune to receive the Royal Assent this session, I am sure that unless the owners and drivers of motor-cars show more consideration for others on the high roads it will be necessary in another two or three years to introduce an amending Bill of a much more drastic character. Therefore, I am extremely anxious that this Bill should be brought into operation as soon as possible, and that it may not be necessary within a very short time to have to suggest some other measure which would only rake up the very unpleasant feeling which now exists between a preponderating section of the public and the users of motor-cars. While I shall certainly vote for the Second Reading of the Bill, I feel that it is capable of, and in fact will require, a considerable amount of Amendment in the next stage.

THE EARL OF CAMPERDOWN: My Lords, I venture to think your Lordships will view with general approval the introduction of this Bill by the Government. This subject of motor-cars is urgent, and during the last few weeks and days it has been becoming more urgent. Your Lordships will now see every morning in the columns of the more prominent of the daily newspapers a column which is generally headed "Speed of Motor cars," and if your Lordships should have time to cast your eyes over that column you will generally discover things which are very terrible and disagreeable, but a certain amount also that is decidedly amusing. The first point in this matter is the rapidly increasing number of these cars. I was struck very much some time ago by a statement made by Mr. Hawkshaw, the President of the Institute of Civil Engineers. I do not know whether he is a motorist or not, but at all events he may be taken as an impartial authority on the subject. He was addressing a speech to the civil engineers, and he said that he stood on Whit Monday, at Horsham, on the Brighton road, and that in eleven minutes there passed him 209 motor-cars, motor-bicycles, and bicycles. Well, now, if your Lordships will multiply that by six, it comes to something like 1,200 vehicles of this sort going by per hour; therefore in one hour, apparently, the happy residents at Horsham were passed on that day by considerably more motor vehicles than trains pass through Clapham Junction during the twenty-four hours.

This subject has been forcing itself more and more upon the notice of the public. I have not the slightest ill-will towards motorists, but it seems to me we may reasonably expect them to regard, to some extent at all events, the convenience of the public. We all have our own experience. We have our experience as magistrates and in other capacities, and we know what we ourselves see in the streets of London. I daresay many of your Lordships have had narrow shaves before now. Only a fortnight ago a motor-car nearly demolished the humble Member of your Lordships' House who is now addressing you. I do not suppose that anything less than the immolation of an Archbishop of Canterbury—for I do not think an ordinary Bishop would be at all sufficient—will induce drivers of motor-cars to show any respectful consideration for the welfare of the general public. I am afraid one must say that although there are no doubt a great many persons who drive with great care, still there are a considerable number—and I am afraid their number is increasing—who commit serious offences of several sorts. The first is that they drive recklessly. I appeal to your Lordships on that point. You know what goes on every day in London. In Hyde Park and elsewhere people who might easily be content to drive round the park at a moderate speed drive—well, your Lordships know at what rates they go.

With regard to the number of accidents and the state of things which is generally prevalent, I will quote from an article headed "Speed of Motor-cars," in the *Standard* newspaper of this morning. It states—and this is merely a record of what happened yesterday at three or four suburban Benches—that at the Epsom Bench yesterday a number of motor drivers were summoned for exceeding the twelve miles speed limit. In the case of one defendant—Frederick Bolton, of Wimbledon—the police evidence was to the effect that he was driving through East Street, Epsom, at the rate of eighteen miles an hour. It was stated that the defendant had been fined the previous week at Reigate, and the Bench now imposed a fine of £5. In the case of another defendant named Frederick Sharpe, the police stated that on Sunday morning, 28th June, he was driving through the Sutton High Street at the rate of twenty miles an hour. Another gentleman, a Mr. Arthur Chase, of Anerley, was summoned for a similar offence. He asked the constable if he could identify him as the driver of the car, and the officer said he could not because the driver he stopped was wearing goggles. The defendant said it was very fortunate the constable did not, because he had only just returned from Ireland. He had never been in Sutton or Epsom previously to that day. He proved conclusively that he was not there on the day in question, and one of the magistrates very properly said that it was abominable that the offender should have given an innocent gentleman's name. It only showed, he added, to what length some motorists would go.

Another case was that of Mr. Lewis Waller, of the Comedy Theatre, who has delighted so many of us. He was, at the Shoreham Petty Sessions yesterday, fined £5 and costs for driving a motor-car at excessive speed between Brighton and Shoreham. When told by the constable that he had been travelling at the rate of twenty-four miles an hour, Mr. Waller expressed his pleasure at knowing he had such a good car. At the Richmond Police Court yesterday a gentleman residing in Piccadilly was summoned for furiously driving a motor-car at Petersham on 27th June. Evidence was given that defendant descended the steep declivity by the Dyart Arms at thirty miles an hour, narrowly avoiding several schoolchildren who were in the road, and knocking down two cyclists, whose machines were severely damaged. That is one day's record in two or three Police Courts, and shows what we are coming to. I will instance a case which happened to come within my own observation. I was at the petty sessions where I live in Worcestershire on Saturday, and it was stated that about a fortnight before two foreign gentlemen passed at a great speed on a Mercedes car on their way to Holyhead, en route for Dublin. When taken to the police station they asked how far it was to Birmingham, and on being told that the distance was about thirty miles one of them said to the other, "then we shall just do it in about half-an-hour." There is another little town close by, and about thirty-three miles from Birmingham, a gentleman went to the telegraph office there about ten days ago at a quarter to eight, and telephoned to his wife in Birmingham to put off dinner till nine o'clock. I don't know whether he arrived punctually to dinner, but that is the sort of thing which goes on quite constantly in that part of the country. The Birmingham high road runs through it, and you see quantities of these motor-cars racing down, the drivers perfectly disguised, and there is no means of stopping them.

Motorists after they have caused or taken part in an accident very often do not wait, but rush on and escape. I think that is a cowardly and a very serious offence. Here is an instance of what took place yesterday, which I also quote from the *Standard.* A young lady living at Woodstock, Sutton, was found lying at Malden Road, Cheam, by some haymakers, with her face terribly grazed, her breast badly cut, and her right arm fractured. She stated that she was out riding when her horse was frightened by a motor-car and bolted, throwing her and dragging her some distance. The driver of the car did not stop to assist her, but drove off. She was removed in an unconscious condition to the hospital at Sutton, where she now lies in a very precarious condition. I cannot believe that there are many drivers who would do such a thing as that, but still it is by no means an uncommon thing for drivers when concerned in an accident to drive off and thereby escape all responsibility. I can give your Lordships another illustration —a Scottish one. Farmers, when their sheep or cattle are being driven across the road from one field to another, frequently incur accidents in this way. There is a very distinguished agriculturist in Perthshire who had some cattle being driven across the road, when up came a motor-car and knocked one of them over and nearly killed it. The car went on and disappeared. The owner of the animal finished the killing and then sent the meat into the local market, but, having done that, he was fined £13 for sending diseased meat to market. This particular gentleman never was very friendly towards motor-cars, but he is rather less so now probably than he was a month or two ago.

Again, drivers of motor-cars habitually refuse their names, and what are you to do? They are not persons living in the neighbourhood; you do not know where they have come from or where they are going to. The police are perfectly powerless. Two cases have come under my own personal knowledge lately. One was of a man who came into Stratford-on-Avon. He had been driving too fast, and the policeman got into his car to identify him, upon which the driver started the car and never stopped again until he got a distance of seventeen miles, when he put down the policeman. These things are very amusing in themselves. The noble and learned Earl on the Woolsack will tell us the law no doubt, but I can hardly conceive the law in this country to be in such a state that an abducted policeman has no right whatever to make any charge against the individual who has carried him off. But however that may be, I can assure you that on this occasion, and on another occasion at a place close by, a policeman was carried off in this way. These cases escape unpunished.

In view of what takes place, is it surprising that reprisals are beginning to be advocated? If your Lordships look at the papers, you will see many amusing letters and different modes of reprisals suggested. First there has been the very simple one of broken glass bottles. A well known sporting Baronet has suggested that there is only one means of identifying the drivers of motor-cars, and that is by swan shot. A most extraordinary case occurred quite recently. A gentleman was cycling near Ealing, and he heard one of these motor-cars making a noise behind him. He thought there was room for the motor to get by, but then he saw another cyclist in front of him coming the other way, so he decided that there was no room and very wisely got down. He got into the hedge and the motor passed him, he says, at twenty to twenty-five miles an hour. When it reached the other cyclist, who had brought up at a fence which he grasped, that cyclist whipped out a revolver from his hip pocket and fired two shots in rapid succession at the car. When the motor-car had disappeared, cyclist No. 1 went up to cyclist No. 2 and pointed out to him that carrying revolvers was not permitted in this country, and that free firing was certainly not allowed, and he replied—

> "What can I do? I have hit one of his back wheels, I am quite certain, and I think I have got them both."

Cyclist No. 1 then proceeded on his way to the next village, where he found the motor just as the cyclist had described. He had disabled one of the wheels, and the car was ruined, and he afterwards saw it dragged away by a mule towards its home, but the driver of the car was absolutely ignorant as to what had occurred. He was making so much noise and creating so much dust that he did not see cyclist No. 2, and he did not hear him discharge his revolver. Naturally, he could not conceive what had happened. All this is very amusing, but at the same time it is becoming serious.

I hope this Bill will pass in some form or another, because if we are to have another twelve months of administration of the present law, there will be traps set in every lane for motors, and magistrates will have to fine more than half the motor drivers in the country. The real question is, Are the roads in this country suited for this sort of thing? Motorists have a perfect right to demand to use the roads and to use them in any manner which is at all akin or analogous to the manner in which they are used by other people; but I think we must all be agreed, in the first place, that the roads were never made for express trains—very often these motor-cars are nothing less—and, in the second place, that it is utterly unreasonable for motorists to claim to be allowed to run along roads as they like, and without any respect for other descriptions of traffic. Then there is the further objection—the dust nuisance. Fortunately, I do not live near any road where motor-cars pass, but people who do are rendered absolutely miserable. One gentleman, writing to the *Standard*, says—

> "May I be allowed to put in a word for the merciful consideration of motorists and Sunday bicyclists on behalf of the remnant—a very little one now—of that old-fashioned and prejudiced class who still cherish the seventh day of the week as one of rest and quiet, and not a field day of noise and pleasure? Though a young man, and a Londoner, I am unhappily afflicted with such simple notions, and in consequence moved some twenty miles into the country, off the main road, in order to enjoy that repose which was denied me in town. I am also a lover of dogs, and had some idea of exercising them peacefully on Sunday afternoons. Such was my humble ideal. The reality is that from six o'clock on Sunday morning till one o'clock on Monday morning the diabolical tooting of motor horns is incessant; my garden is covered with the dust which they leave behind, and the summer air redolent of oil. To exercise my dogs with any degree of pleasure is, of course, out of the question, so I pay a boy to do it on week days, when motors are recovering from last Sunday's work, and their owners earning the wherewithal for next Sunday's amusements."

The dust nuisance is really dangerous to the motorists themselves. I understand that a very serious accident which took place on Saturday last was caused in this way: two motors were following one another, but owing to the dust it was impossible for the drivers to see anything, with the result that one of them, a little bit wide of the other on the road, did not see a motor coming in the opposite direction, and the consequence was a telescope. That gives you some idea of what the thickness of the dust must be. I had a letter only a day or two ago from a gentleman at Richmond, who said his house was full of dust each week-end and almost uninhabitable. The dust is caused to a large extent by the excessive speed at which these cars will insist upon going. Surely twenty miles an hour is as fast as any reasonable person ought to want to go on the roads. Of course, if any of us attempted to go at anything like that speed in our carriages or on horseback, we should be had up for furious driving or riding, and punished.

Clause 1 of the Bill omits a speed limit altogether, and the only reference that is made to restricting speed is in Clause 5, where it is provided that the Local Government Board may empower County Councils or Borough Councils to enact a lower rate of

The Earl of Camperdown.

speed in certain specified parts. I shall venture to submit to your Lordships, and I hope your Lordships will accept it, an Amendment imposing a speed limit of twenty miles. I am well aware of the objections that there are to an Amendment of that sort. It has been said that if you impose such a speed limit the result will be that the motorist will consider that he has a right to go at twenty miles an hour. Of course, if a motorist chooses to misread the Act entirely, that nobody can help. But his ideas on that point would undergo a change if he found himself in the Police Court on a charge of reckless and dangerous driving. Another point is that nothing is said about the owner. The driver is the person to be punished. Of course, in many cases the driver is to blame, but there are other cases in which the owner is to blame, and it has even been suggested by some persons that you should include the hirer. I cannot myself go as far as that; but, with regard to the owner, I think that in a Bill which is to be at all effectual, the owner ought to be included and made punishable when he is really to blame.

The next point I wish to call attention to is Sub-section 2 of Clause 1, which says that—

> "Any police constable may apprehend, without warrant, the driver of any car who commits an offence under this section within his view."

A more futile provision cannot be imagined. How can police constables be expected to see everything that is going on? I would suggest that a police constable should be empowered to apprehend the driver of any car who commits an offence under this section if he does not know him, or if he refuses to give his name and address. I think then that the sub-section would be a good and effectual one. But, further than that, I think power ought to be given to other people, when an accident occurs, if they do not know the driver, to apprehend and detain him until, at all events, such time as he can be charged. As your Lordships know, what happens now is this, that the driver, if he can, scuttles off as fast as possible, and nothing more is heard of him. Suppose he has knocked me in a ditch and I manage to get hold of him, and find that he is wearing goggles and there is no means of identifying him, why may I not be allowed to apprehend him? It is said that the number will be sufficient. Of course if the driver is obliged to carry a number, and if he is carrying a number, I quite admit that that is a very good mode of identification and quite satisfactory; but if he has no number is there any reason why he should not be apprehended by the unfortunate person whom he has injured?

When we come to the question of licensing, I quite agree with what my noble friend, Lord Granby, said just now, that there appears to be no good reason for obliging the professional driver alone to take out a licence. I cannot see any difference between amateurs and professionals, except, perhaps, that of the two amateurs are the most dangerous. The Bill as it now stands does not contain any clause requiring the licence to be produced. Surely it is most desirable that if a police constable asks for the production of this licence the holder should be obliged to produce it. I think an Amendment of that sort would do good to the clause. I will not trouble your Lordships with any more remarks at this stage of the Bill, except to ask the noble Lord in charge of the measure whether it would not be possible to draft a clause to exempt broughams and private carriages, which can only go at low speeds, from carrying numbers. It seems to me that if a private carriage can and does only go at an ordinary rate of speed it will be unnecessary to put marks upon it which must be of a rather disfiguring charactering.

Another point which I hope the noble Lord will consider is that of interfering with the police in the execution of their duty. As I stated just now, cases have occurred in which the police have even been abducted while endeavouring to do their duty, and apparently there is no remedy. I hope words will be put in to deal with that case. I should like to ask the noble Lord also whether it would be possible to extend this Bill so as to include the cases of motor bicycles, which are very nearly as bad as motor-cars. They go at a very great pace and make most disagreeable and disturbing noises, and I believe they have been the cause of a great many accidents. They certainly stand on an altogether different footing from other bicycles. I believe they can go nearly as quick as motor cars, and very often do, and I think if it were possible to include them in this Bill it would be an advantage. I will not trespass further upon the time of the House to-day, as we shall have to discuss these questions at considerable length when we go into Committee.

THE EARL OF ROSSLYN: My Lords, we have already heard two speeches containing very divergent opinions, which only prove to us how difficult the solution of this problem must be. Whilst I earnestly congratulate His Majesty's Government on their apparent desire to amend for the general good the Locomotives on Highways Act of 1896, I cannot but feel that this new Motor-Car Bill will not fulfil the hopes they anticipate, and will fail to remove the friction which at present exists between the motor-car drivers and the local authorities. Not only that, but it will create further difficulties for the Local Government Board, for apparently under Sub-section 1 of Clause 5, the local authorities are to be appointed referees in any question as to defining dangerous localities. I use the word "referees" because, as I understand the section, the council of any county or borough are given permission to frame regulations for speed, but must submit them for confirmation to the Local Government Board. In these circumstances it will be interesting to know whether it is intended that the councils of counties or boroughs are to send these clauses to the Local Government Board and the Local Government Board are to refer them back again for further consideration —in other words, to know which is to be paramount, the Local Government Board or the councils of counties or boroughs.

In view of what has already been said by the noble Marquis beside me, I make this very humble suggestion, that in this no-limit-of-speed clause should be inserted a proviso that in passing any group of houses, or through any narrow lane, the limit of speed should be reduced to eight miles an hour, and that distinct warning should be given by the blowing of a horn on approaching the houses or passing through the lane. I have used the words "group of houses" because I do not wish to distinguish between half a dozen houses and a regular village. It is not so much collision with other vehicles that has to be guarded against, but accidents to pedestrians, who constitute the largest majority. We have also to consider the convenience of householders on the road, who suffer the indignity and the annoyance of having their houses filled with dust by cars travelling at an enormous speed. My noble friend Lord Balfour of Burleigh was understood by me to say that the onus of identification would rest with the driver of the car—in other words, that he must identify himself. That is only natural so long as he carries the registration mark which is to be selected; but I should like to know whether the noble Lord or His Majesty's Government considers that the present labels and signs which are on foreign cars are adequate for a driver who is travelling recklessly and enveloped, as he always is, in a cloud of dust?

The object of this Bill is undoubtedly to promote and protect a young and rising industry, but also to prevent injury to life and limb by the reckless employment of the output of this industry. As the Bill stands, I cannot see that this object will be attained. I consider that the friction at present existing between motor-car drivers and the police—due very often to the exaggerated sense of duty of the police—will not be removed if we are to have one speed for one county, and another for another, and I earnestly ask your Lordships to consider my suggestion when the proper time comes, to add a proviso to the no-limit-of-speed clause that no motor-car driver should be allowed to exceed a speed of eight miles an hour when passing any group of houses or through a narrow lane. I turn to the section which deals with licensing. I cannot understand the reasons which the noble Lord gave on the First Reading for licensing professional drivers and exempting amateur drivers and the owners of the cars. If I remember rightly, he said that the Government exempted them because they believed that those who knew most about the cars, namely, the professional *chauffeurs*, were inclined to take greater risks than the ordinary amateur. But I think it can be proved with the greatest ease that the greater number of accidents have been caused by amateurs, and that a very large proportion of the summonses that have been issued have been served on the owners of cars.

It ought not to be permissible, in a great democratic country like this, that there should be one law for the rich and another for the poor, that there should be one law for the proprietor and another for his servant. I trust that His Majesty's Government will not only see their way to make the licensing universal, but will go further and say that before a certificate is issued to a driver there shall be a qualifying trial of skill in driving, and a test of knowledge of the component parts of the motor-car. In touching for one moment on Clause 6, which deals with the penalties, I would express the hope that imprisonment will be left out as regards the first penalty and a severer fine imposed instead. Again, I would suggest that on a second or subsequent conviction, the withholding of the licence, added to a fine, should be peremptory for a certain period. The Bill must be framed in such a way as to make it acceptable to everyone, and I hope that consideration will be given to the points to which I have called attention.

*THE EARL OF MAYO: My Lords, I am not a motorist myself, but I have been asked by the Automobile Club, and those very much interested, to say a few words with regard to this Bill. I join with the noble Marquess who spoke first in his contention that the safety of the public comes first. The principle of the Bill, that upon the driver should fall the responsibility of using his motor-car wisely, is a sound one, and if he does not do so he should be severely fined. The Marquess of Granby touched upon the commercial aspect of this matter, and I ventured the other day to address a few words to your Lordships from this point of view. There is no doubt that if you put a severe restriction upon motorists and those who build motor-cars in this country, you will hamper that industry, which is now being "cut" and encroached upon by foreign manufacturers. The noble Marquess expressed the hope. in referring to the motor race in Ireland, that that would be the last race that would be held on the roads of the United Kingdom. That was my own opinion before the race took place, and that was the very reason why I went over to see it. I am not now alluding to the day of the race but to the traffic on the several previous days. I live on the road which these motor-cars traversed, and I own two villages on that road, and I can testify to the fact that no one was hurt. The noble Earl mentioned the question of dust. The dust did not seem to hurt the people in Ireland. They rather welcomed the hurry, bustle, and confusion in that quiet part of the country; and there was a good deal of money left behind, which is, of course, the material consideration.

I quite agree that all who drive motor-cars should be licensed, females as well as males. I should like to say a word with regard to the large number of motor-cars, motor bicycles, and bicycles on the Brighton road upon a certain day, which were referred to by the Earl of Camperdown. I do not know whether the noble Earl differentiated between motor-cars, motor bicycles, and bicycles, but certainly bicycles are for the convenience of the public, and I should think there were more of these than of motor-cars amongst them. Another point which the noble Earl dealt with was that of reckless driving. I was glad to see that he did not damn the Bill altogether. I am glad the Bill has been brought in, and I hope it will stop reckless driving. There is a provision in the Bill that every car is to be numbered, and that, I think, will put an end largely to reckless driving. The noble Earl opposite told some interesting stories about the proceedings at the Epsom Police Court yesterday. With regard to the story he mentioned of the cyclist and the revolver, I would observe that if the cyclist had hit the motorist and killed him he would have been hanged.

*THE EARL OF CAMPERDOWN: That question was put to him, and he said he was not the least likely to hit the man unless he shot at him. He said that if the motorist was in the country where he came from he would have had a bullet in his head.

*THE EARL OF MAYO: The question of the speed limit is the crux of the whole matter. Is it not better for the local authorities to decide in what parts of their counties certain speeds are to be allowed, and that the Local Government Board should then, under their rules, deal with those recommendations, rather than that a speed should be fixed in the Bill? The noble Earl opposite suggested a speed limit of twenty miles. This suggested limit of twenty miles emanates from a meeting held in Committee Room No. 13 on 9th July.

THE EARL OF CAMPERDOWN: No, it does not.

*THE EARL OF MAYO: I have a report of the proceedings in my hand. At that meeting there was only one gentleman who owned a motor-car, and I suppose those present wished to have this limit inserted, not from any feeling against the Bill, but from a feeling against motorists. I now come to the Bill itself, and I may say that there are a great many things that those interested in motor-cars wish to see altered. In Clause 1, for instance, the word "reasonably" might very well come before the words "be expected"—that is, with reference to the traffic which might reasonably be expected to be on the highway. With regard to the power given to the police to apprehend offenders without a warrant, I wish to know what is to become in such cases, of the car. Even where there is a second individual in the car it may happen that he is unable to drive it. I think the clause which deals with the numbering of the cars is a most useful one. There is another question I should like to ask—What will be the result of enabling the Court to take licences away? A doctor who uses a motor-car for professional purposes may, I suppose, find himself deprived of the vehicle in which he goes about to his patients. With regard to speed, I am of opinion that there is no such thing as a safe speed limit. Twenty miles is suggested as a limit. But how can a car go down a hill with a steep gradient without exceeding that limit? A speed limit would make it almost impossible for people to drive motor-cars at all. With regard to the provision enabling the councils of county and county boroughs to make special regulations as to speed at certain dangerous places, I hope all these circumstances will be investigated by the Local Government Board before the regulations are sanctioned. The clause relating to the weight of cars does not, I am instructed, meet the wants of commercial people who build heavy motors; they would prefer to see a higher maximum of weight than the Bill proposes, say a maximum of seven tons or more. Clause 8 provides that motor-car drivers are to be male servants for the purposes of inland revenue, and I wish to ask if the owner of a motor-car will have to pay a duty on the male servants as well as paying for a licence. I hope your Lordships will give the Bill a Second Reading, and that in Committee the various points to which I have directed attention will be fully considered.

LORD LAMINGTON: My Lords, I associate myself generally with the remarks and criticisms of previous speakers, but I desire to say one or two words with reference to the licensing of drivers of motor-cars. It is the feeling of the public that some steps should be taken to insure that the drivers of motor-cars shall be persons competent to deal with these complicated machines. It is done in France, and therefore I imagine that the difficulties with regard to the conducting of examinations can be overcome. It has been represented to me that people cannot become efficient motorists unless they practice on the public roads. I was talking to an expert to-day on that subject, and he informed me that at nearly all the large motor establishments they have places where people can be taught to drive motor-cars, so that that is a difficulty that can also be overcome. Unless a test is imposed we shall see motor-cars driven about by boys of ten or twelve years of age as soon as cheap second-hand machines become obtainable. In regard to the suggestion that a speed limit should be insisted upon when motor-cars pass through certain populous places, I ask how notices are to be made visible at these places at night. Signal lamps, of course, would be very expensive. I think it will be necessary to deal with this question by means of some general law establishing a speed limit in populous places. I have a letter in my hand from a Scottish minister telling me that in all cases where there has been anything like a motor-car accident in his village the drivers have tried to escape. I would ask whether it would not be possible to stop them by sending on a telegraphic message, and to adopt some summary procedure for the recovery of damages. I understand that the poultry of this country is being quite decimated, and I think it is a very serious matter for poor cottagers that they should have their poultry destroyed. In a case where the owner is in the car, I think he should be held responsible for any contravention of the law, and not the driver, who is his servant.

LORD KELVIN: My Lords, it seems to me that there are two points with reference to which the safety of the public is not sufficiently provided for in this Bill. One is the registration of cars. It seems to me absolutely necessary that no car should be registered for running on any of the public roads, or licensed or permitted to run on any public road which is dangerous essentially from its own construction. We have heard from the noble earl, Lord Mayo, that it is impossible to go at less than twenty miles an hour downhill—on some particular motor-cars, I presume the noble Earl meant. I think it is absolutely necessary for the public safety that no car should be licensed to go on any set of roads unless it can be shown that it is perfectly under control on the roads in that part of the country. Another point in which the public safety seems to me insufficiently provided for is the interregnum in respect of speed. The present law as to speed is abolished by Clause 5, except in cases in which the local authority continues it, but the clause does not provide that the local authority must consider it. It is only permissive, and years might pass during which the local authority had done nothing, and the public is absolutely deprived of all the safety that a speed limit implies. When I read the explanation given by Lord Balfour in introducing the Bill, it seemed to me that this clause must be an exceedingly good one, and very well devised for the safety of the public. But then I understood it to be that the existing speed limit remained in force, unless abolished by the local authority, over all the roads, or over some of the roads, or some parts of some of the roads under their control. In other words, it seems to me that the abolition of a speed limit automatically by the Bill is a danger to the public, and if I do not ask the House to divide on the Second Reading it will be on the understanding that the existing law of speed shall not be automatically abolished but shall only be abolished when its abolition or modification is asked for by the local authority, and is arranged for between the local authority and the Local Government Board.

EARL SPENCER: My Lords, I have listened with great attention to the interesting debate we have had to-night on this subject, and your Lordships will perhaps think it desirable that some Member of the bench on which I sit should express an opinion on this subject. I am distinctly in favour of the Second Reading of this Bill. I cannot agree with a noble Lord who said that this is simply a measure to protect a growing industry. The Bill is one to make our highways safe for the public who have a right to be upon them; and while ensuring this safety it is not designed to do an injustice to an industry which we all want to see prosperous and successful. A few years ago we used to hear of and meet a great many persons who wanted to put down the motor-car system of travel, and I have seen notices of Resolutions before County Councils, moved by important county magnates, with the object of putting such restrictions on motor-cars as would prevent them almost altogether from running. We have left that stage now. I am glad that that stage has been passed through. Motor-cars are with us and will remain with us, and it is acknowledged that they fulfil most useful functions and facilitate travel in a valuable way. But while that is so, we all feel the absolute necessity at the present moment of putting some check on reckless driving. The noble Lord who spoke from the Cross Benches (Lord Kelvin) alluded to a remark made by my noble friend Lord Mayo with regard to the impossibility of stopping the speed of motor-cars going down hill. My noble friend spoke on behalf of the Automobile Club, but I am afraid the argument he used was a most dangerous one from the point of view of that club, and if he had not, at the beginning of his speech, explained that he was not a motorist, a great point might be made against him on account of that observation.

THE EARL OF MAYO: I am told by a member of the Automobile Club that I was quite wrong.

EARL SPENCER: I am glad to have that admission from the noble Earl. I think one of the things motor-cars are remarkable for is the extraordinary rapidity with which they can be stopped when running at a high speed. It is difficult, in a debate of this kind, which is of rather a technical character, not to go into details which more properly belong to the Committee stage, and I feel compelled to make a few general remarks which must, to some extent, touch on detail. One point to which I attach considerable weight is that not only professional drivers of motor-cars, but also the owners, should be compelled to have a licence. I quite agree that the most dangerous kind of driver is the amateur. The Bill provides that any driver, by payment of a shilling, can obtain a licence. No condition whatever is imposed in the Bill on the grant of a licence. I think that is a great mistake, and I should certainly say that every driver, amateur or professional, male or female, ought to be made to prove the possession of some qualifications before obtaining a licence. The noble Lord who introduced the Bill said that such a regulation would be an interference with the liberty of the subject, and that as we do not deal in that way with drivers of horsed vehicles there is no reason for doing so in the case of motor-cars. But everybody who is fond of horses will admit that though occasionally you have to deal with a runaway and a horse which is difficult to drive, yet, on the whole, horses are a great assistance to the driver and are not so dangerous as motor-cars, which have no sense or intelligence. I think it is not impossible to deal with this matter in the Bill, for I can quote the practice in regard to the licensing of bicycles in Germany and of motor-cars in France in support of my contention. It seems to me only legitimate to impose some sort of qualification on those who receive licences.

I am not one of those who think we can exclude motor-cars from the roads. Some people argue that there should be special roads for motor-cars, but I cannot give any support to that view. We had a wealth of illustration from my noble friend Lord Camperdown with regard to the terrible inconvenience that arises from the dust created by motor-cars going at a high rate of speed. There are other inconveniences connected with motor-cars on highways. But with regard to the question of dust, a friend of mine was telling me the other day that in one part of the country the owners along a particular road had been obliged to go to the expense of having regular water carts in order to avoid the great nuisance which the rush of motor-cars had caused. I rather regret some of our modern legislation. No doubt in some ways the abolition of turnpikes has been a great convenience; but at times I think that the system was not at all an unfair one of raising money for the upkeep of the roads, and I almost wish that turnpikes still existed as far as motor-cars are concerned. They might possibly run through a turnpike now and then, but certainly the system would afford greater facilities than obtain now for dealing with cases of improper speed. One thing in the Bill which I find exceedingly unsatisfactory is the want of uniformity of regulations in different parts of the country, which will prevail if it passes in its present form. Motor cars, as we are all perfectly well aware, are driven enormous distances in the course of a few hours, several counties, perhaps, being traversed during one drive, and if those counties all have different regulations as to speed in different places it seems to me that a great difficulty will be put in the way of motor-cars, and the safety of the public will be endangered. I think, therefore, that some general regulations ought to be made, applicable to the country as a whole. On the other hand, I admit that it is exceedingly dangerous to have any regulations which cannot in practice be applied, and that is the condition of affairs at the present time. I hope the Bill will pass the Second Reading, and that it may be strengthened and made more workable by Amendment in Committee.

THE SECRETARY FOR SCOTLAND (Lord BALFOUR of BURLEIGH): My Lords, I certainly have no reason to complain of the tone of the discussion which has taken place at this stage of the Bill, and I think I may say that there is almost universal agreement on the part of every speaker that there is a case for legislation somewhat upon the lines of the present Bill, though there are differences of opinion in regard to details. There is no doubt whatever in the mind of any noble Lord who has spoken that the time has come when a very earnest effort should be made to pass a Bill dealing with this matter, and I do not apprehend, especially after the observations of the noble Earl who has just sat down, that there will be any desire to divide against the Second Reading. Therefore I shall not go at all into the general arguments which have justified His Majesty's Government in attempting to deal with this intricate, and, I am bound to say, difficult subject. I regretted to hear the noble Marquess who spoke first say that he was not so satisfied with the Bill as he had been with my explanation of it. I certainly hope that I did not mislead him; if I did I can only assure him I did not intentionally do so, and he cannot have been long in a state of uncertainty, because the Bill was circulated with a celerity which is unusual in your Lordships' House. The speech of the noble Earl who spoke next seemed rather an argument in favour of dealing with the subject generally upon the lines adopted in this Bill, for nearly everyone of the lamentable instances which he quoted would have been much more easy to deal with if the measure had been in operation, and if there had been some convenient means of identifying the persons who broke the law or committed the offences against good taste complained of.

I think I may say that all the points which have been raised in this debate are points which are more appropriate to the Committee stage. On the other hand, I am bound to say that I agree with the noble Earl the Leader of the Opposition that it is a matter of great convenience that those of us who are responsible for the Bill should know, at any rate generally, the sort of points which are likely to be raised at the subsequent stage. I shall not trespass at great length on the time of the House, but will indicate generally the opinions which His Majesty's Government hold in regard, at any rate, to the most important points which have been touched upon by the noble Lords who have spoken. It has been urged that there is no reason to distinguish in the matter of licensing between the man who drives a car for amusement, and the man who drives for fee or reward. I clear that out of the way at once by saying that His Majesty's Government are willing to accept that suggestion and to alter the Bill in conformity with the suggestion which has been made from so many different quarters, and at the Committee stage I will undertake to put an Amendment on the Paper on behalf of the Government to deal with that point.

Closely allied to the question of licensing is the question of granting certificates of efficiency. I ventured to say the other day that we did not intend the licence to imply a certificate of efficiency. If it were possible by any system of examination that the certificate would be a real guarantee of efficiency there would be much to be said for the proposal; but there are very grave practical objections in the way, which have influenced His Majesty's Government. I am sanguine enough to hope that they may influence the minds of noble Lords who seem at first sight to be attracted by the idea, and I will endeavour to put them before the House in order that they may be deliberately considered before we come to the next stage. This is not a thing which in our present position could be effectually done by the central authority. I venture to think that it would not be possible to ask every owner of a motor-car to come to London with his machine, or even to a number of centres, to be examined and passed. I do not think that that will be seriously contested. I am quite aware that that is the system, generally speaking, in France. It is done, I know, under a public authority—under the Minister of Works—but we in this country are not accustomed to be governed quite in the same way as the French people, and the Local Government Board has not agents—and no other Government Department has agents—spread all over the country who can take a paternal interest in the affairs of those who wish to become motor-car drivers.

I am bound to say that I was much struck, as I am sure all of your Lordships were struck, by one suggestion made by Lord Kelvin—whose high authority in these matters entitles him to express an opinion which would have great weight with your Lordships—that no car should be allowed on the highway which was not of a safe and proper type. It is not a suggestion which has been made before, and I am bound to say that I think there would be great difficulty in carrying it out It is a very different proposal from that of a certificate of efficiency. I have been told by those who have obtained certificates in France that the examination is not a very practical test or well carried out. The process, as it was described to me, is this. The Prefect or Sub-Prefect mounts the car and tells the candidate to go forward, to stop, to go backward and to stop, and then to illustrate what he knows of the machinery. A couple of unmounted photographs are then produced, and one pasted on the certificate of the driver and the other kept in the Sub-Prefect's office. I can hardly think that noble Lords who are chairmen of County Councils can be expected to go through this performance with every car in their district which has to be licensed. At the present time the County Councils have not officers who can undertake this work, and if each Council is to have an examination of its own, uniformity of test will be lacking and the incompetent candidates will go to the districts where the examination is least severe. It will be impossible to exercise any check upon the quality of the certificates. Then, again, there are various kinds of cars and a man may be competent to drive one type of car and incompetent to drive another. Is the certificate to be limited to the car on which he shows his powers?

Lord Balfour of Burleigh.

THE EARL OF ROSSLYN: Personally I think the certificate should undoubtedly be limited to the car which the holder has shown himself capable of driving.

LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH: If the noble Earl is really bitten with the practicability of the idea, I venture to suggest that the best course for him to take will be, after considering the suggested difficulties I am putting forward, and after taking such advice as is open to him, to let me see a clause drafted by him for carrying out his suggestion. That will be the time for considering whether a practical, business-like assembly like your Lordships' House will go into a venture of that kind. The Local Government Board have kept a record of many of the accidents that have occurred, and there is no sort of suggestion that the cause of the accidents has been the incompetence of the drivers. Accidents arise much more from recklessness and from taking risks which the drivers ought not to take than from want of skill; and even the most competent man may sometimes lose his nerve. For these reasons I believe that a certificate of competency would be a very difficult thing to provide for in practice, and that it would be a delusion and a snare rather than a protection to the public. As to the responsibility of owners, upon which point some stress was laid by the noble Earl opposite (Lord Camperdown), I am quite sure that no one will suggest that the owner should be held responsible for a driver unless he is with him, or unless he has aided and abetted the driver's offence. I would ask noble Lords who think that the present Bill is not strong enough in respect of the liability of the owner to look at Section 5 of the Summary Jurisdiction Act of 1848, under which I am informed responsibility is distinctly laid upon the principal if he aids and abets his agent in the commission of an offence, and therefore under that Act the punishment would be the same for the owner as for the driver. I will verify that before the Committee stage. The information was given to me earlier in the day, and I have not myself had time to verify it, but it came from the Local Government Board, and I believe it is accurate. The licensing of all drivers will, I hope, prove a really important check, because it will enable the owner or amateur driver of a car to be punished in a very practical way without being actually sent to prison, because if his licence is endorsed or forfeited he will be prevented from driving the car which he has purchased, probably at a large cost. I understood the noble Earl who spoke from the Cross Benches to suggest that the method of dealing with the rate of speed in Clause 5 was not a very good one. I understood him to wish that more power should be given to local authorities, independent of the Local Government Board.

THE EARL OF ROSSLYN: I beg the noble Lord's pardon. I had no intention of conveying any such impression. I wished to know which would be the supreme authority, and I expressed the hope that the Local Government Board would make one hard and fast rule as to speed in passing groups of houses and through narrow lanes.

LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH: Under the Bill the speed limit is to be abolished except for those districts in which the local authority desire it to be maintained, and there it can be fixed at fourteen miles an hour or less. The actual supremacy in the matter will remain with the Local Government Board, and the initiative with the local authority. I think that is the proper division of duties, because there is great force in the contention that you ought not to have ever varying rules of speed in a drive, say, of twenty-five miles. The simpler you can make the law the more likely it is to be observed. The idea of the Bill is to throw the onus of reckless driving on the driver of the car, and to have a much narrower limit of speed in places where there is a real justification for it. Lord Rosslyn suggested a limit of eight miles an hour. My experience of making by-laws, both for motor-cars and bicycles, would lead me to say that in very many cases that is too narrow a limit. Even in crowded districts I think a motor-car can safely be allowed to go as fast as a horse drawn vehicle; and of the two the motor-car is probably infinitely more under control; and I think that on the whole the provision in the Bill as it stands is better than any of the suggestions which have been made in regard to that particular point. A suggestion was made by my noble friend Lord Camperdown which I understood to be in the introduction of a new clause for the purpose of allowing cars which can travel only at a limited speed to be exempted from the regulations for numbering and lettering. The class of car to which the noble Earl no doubt alluded is that known as the electric brougham, of which one sees so many about the streets. I am bound to say that such a provision was, indeed, inserted by the Government in one of the drafts of the Bill, but a very grave practical objection was at once pointed out by the police authorities and others who have the experience of regulating the traffic in the streets. In the absence of any mark of identification, how can you say whether an unmarked vehicle is legally unmarked or not? The police would have in many instances to interfere with every car which was unmarked in order to find out whether it was legally entitled to the exemption. What the Government think is the better way, and what they desire to do, is to register every vehicle, but by regulations to modify the form of mark which may be necessary on this class of vehicle. I am willing at the same time, on behalf of the Local Government Board, to give a pledge that if the subject is left in their power the most serious consideration will be given to the proposal which has been submitted. If a vehicle is registered and marked so as to be identifiable I am advised that the Department believe they may be able to allow in the case of low speed vehicles a mark of a much less conspicuous nature than those marks attached to the high speed class.

THE EARL OF CAMPERDOWN: Can it be done under the Bill as it now stands?

LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH: I am informed that it can be done. That, at any rate, is the intention, but if there is any doubt on the point I will accept an Amendment to make it perfectly clear. But I take it that those who are interested in this particular class of vehicle will remember that if a vehicle is built to run at twelve miles an hour on a level road, it must have a reserve power of speed to go up a hill, and care must be taken that this reserve power shall not be used to drive the car at a greater speed on a level road. I only mention this to show how desirable it is to leave a small point of that kind to be dealt with under a flexible and elastic system by means of regulation by the Local Government Board, rather than by a stereotyped and hard and fast rule in a section of the Bill. A good deal has been said about the speed limit. My noble friend Lord Camperdown suggested, as I understood him, a limit of twenty miles an hour. The noble Marquess who spoke first to-night was unable to suggest any alternative to that in the Bill. If it had not been for the remarks which were made by the noble Earl the Leader of the Opposition upon the statement of Lord Mayo, I should have ventured to point out the very matter to which he took exception, and to show how the argument that a machine going twenty miles an hour along a level road must go faster down hill gave away the whole case for allowing that class of machine to go unrestricted on our roads. But, of course, we know quite well that however fast a machine can go it can be effectively controlled by the man who is driving it.

Nearly all the difficulties in connection with this subject centre round the question of the speed limit. Some people say there must be a limit. The subject was carefully considered at various stages during the preparation of the Bill, and ultimately we decided the question in the negative, and we decided it upon this ground, that whatever limit is chosen must in some circumstances be excessive, and must in others be unduly restrictive. I believe it passes the wit of man to fix any limit which shall not be excessive under some circumstances and unduly restrictive in others. I believe that much of the difficulty which now exists is because there is a cast-iron limit which is too low for present purposes, and which no one respects. I venture to think that it will be a very serious departure from the principles on which the Bill is framed if either this House or the other House of Parliament imposes a speed limit in the Bill. I do not say that it will be destructive of the measure, but, as at present advised, I do say that it will require very much stronger reasons than have yet been advanced to induce the Government to depart from the position they have taken up. The noble Earl himself indicated one of the reasons. He said that a maximum speed would be considered a kind of charter within which drivers would be entitled to regulate their speed. But the Government did not wish to give any charter of that kind. We want to make it abundantly clear that the responsibility for the speed, whatever it may be, rests upon the man who drives the car. I believe that to be not only the simplest and the easiest to enforce, but the most satisfactory and most flexible condition to impose.

What is excessive speed must, it seems to me, be decided by circumstances. Obviously what is excessive speed at one time of the day in any of the thoroughfares might not be excessive at another time; and I hope that before Parliament makes up its mind to alter the Bill in that respect the gravest and the most careful consideration will be given to the subject. Some of those who are enemies of this form of traffic may like it; some police authorities may even like it as affording them an easy way of, so to speak, enforcing the law and catching evil doers. They may measure a piece of road and time a car from one end to the other, but what good do they do by that? Perhaps it is a perfectly straight road where the driver can see hundreds of yards ahead; perhaps it may be the very safest part of the road over which the car may travel, and yet all the energies of the police and the local authorities are concentrated on these easy level portions, while observation at the cross-roads and the populous places is neglected because they know they are less likely to catch an offender at these places than on the portions of the road along which it is perfectly safe to travel. I am bound to say that a great deal of the present difficulty—and it has been frankly recognised from all quarters of the House to-night—has arisen because of the want of consideration for others shown by a certain number of those who use the cars. If only we could impress upon those drivers that it is not enough in these matters to obey the letter of the law, but that there is a courteous rule of the road and a consideration for others which it is absolutely necessary to observe, I believe that a great deal of the difficulty would disappear. It is because I know that there is a certain class who will not give effect to these considerations unless they think they are likely to be found out, that I attach importance to an easy means of identification. It is to that kind of consideration that I pin my faith for making the Bill work well.

I agree in thinking that a large portion of the roads in this country are not constructed so as to be suitable for these exhibitions of very high speed. Many motor-cars go faster than many express trains, certainly faster than many trains in the south of London, and this on roads where there are many turns and cross-roads, no safeguards, and no signals or appliances such as tend to make railway travelling so safe. How are we to reconcile what is reasonable freedom with the punishment of those who drive at an excessive speed and ought to be punished? I believe that this end can only be attained, with fairness to all interests, by some such proposals as are contained in this Bill. I hope that these considerations will weigh with the House and induce your Lordships to pass the clauses of the Bill relating to rate of speed on the same lines, at any rate, as those on which they are framed. I pledge myself and those who are interested in this Bill to give the most reasonable, most fair, the most candid consideration to any proposals, from whichever quarter they may come, for improving this measure on the main lines on which it is drafted. Exception has been taken during the course of this debate to the limit of weight proposed in the Bill. I believe the noble Earl behind me was correct in saying that in some of our large towns —in Liverpool, for instance—a great desire has been expressed for a slight increase of the limit as to the weight of these light locomotives. Your Lordships may disabuse your minds of this, that it is the racing fraternity who want an increase in the weight. Those who are hampered by the present limitation of weight are those who are using these machines for industrial purposes.

With regard to the question raised by the noble Marquess who spoke first, whether the licence will be suspended pending an appeal, all I can say at present is that the suggestion is well worthy of consideration, if there is a reasonable limit of time for the trial of the appeal. My noble friend Lord Camperdown inquired whether motor bicycles were included in this Bill. Most certainly they are included under the first section of the principal Act of 1896, and in any case the point will be made clear before the Bill becomes law. The part of the Bill which deals with apprehension at sight will require very careful consideration; but I cannot hold out the hope that an aggrieved person shall be entitled to apprehend at sight the person who he thinks has aggrieved him. Free fights and police Court cases would be far more numerous if such a provision were sanctioned, and the Epsom Police Court would be an even more lively place on a Monday morning than it is at the present moment.

THE EARL OF CAMPERDOWN: The power exists under the Highways Act.

LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH: I will look into that point, but I think the proper person to apprehend anyone is the person set apart for that purpose.

THE EARL OF CAMPERDOWN: If he is there.

LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH: I sympathise with those who suffer from the excess of dust caused by the too rapid transit of motor-cars; but there must always be inconveniences as well as conveniences from living near great lines of traffic. I have endeavoured to take a real interest in this matter, which I believe to be of the greatest possible importance, and I assure the House that I shall do my best to make the Bill as acceptable as possible under the difficult circumstances.

LORD TWEEDMOUTH: My Lords, I wish to take exception to a single point in the speech of my noble friend who has charge of this Bill—namely, with regard to the *non possumus* attitude he took up upon the question of requiring some proficiency on the part of the driver before he is granted a certificate. Even the arguments that were used by the noble Lord did not seem to be very convincing. They were founded, not on the undesirability of such a condition being required from a driver, but rather on the difficulty of enforcing it. The noble Lord asked who was to examine, and whether we expected chairmen of County Councils to go out in the motor-cars with the applicants for licences; and he suggested that it was not conceivable that owners and drivers of motor-cars were to come up to London in order to be examined. After all, these difficulties are difficulties which have to be got over. This is a new system of locomotion. The whole of the conditions with regard to it are new, and if it is necessary for local authorities to increase their staff and to adopt new methods of administration for the purposes of the new locomotion, then the local authorities must do so. The noble Lord was a little wrong in his description of how this is managed in France. It is not the case that drivers of automobiles are brought up to Paris to be examined. The examination takes place in all the great cities of France, and it is carried on there, as I think it might very well be carried on here, by the police. On the certificate is stated the class of car on which the examination took place, and, in addition, as the noble Lord said, in the corner of the certificate is placed the photograph of the driver. I do insist that it would be much more satisfactory to the country at large if some certificate of efficiency were given. It might not be a perfect one, but one that was not perfect would be better than none at all. After all, as much, if not more, knowledge is required to drive a motor-car than to drive an engine along rails. There is one other point with regard to the question of the speed limit upon which I should like to ask the noble Lord a question. I am with him that the enforcement of a speed limit is not desirable, but I want to know the exact position of County Councils in this matter. Will it be possible for a County Council to insist on a speed limit, say, of twelve miles, over its whole area, or will it be confined to urban districts? I do not think that point comes out clearly either in the Bill or from the speech of the noble Lord. I understood the noble Lord to say that the County Council or the local authority could name a speed limit within its area, and, provided that that speed limit was sanctioned by the Local Government Board, it would come into force.

Lord BALFOUR of BURLEIGH: The speed limit as it now exists is wholly abolished, except in populous or special places in the country, where, with the sanction of the Local Government Board, the present speed limit of fourteen miles or less is maintained. In other words, the onus of asking for the continuance of the existing system will rest, in the first instance, with the local authority, who will move the County Councils, who will move the Local Government Board to sanction that particular speed in a particular place.

Lord TWEEDMOUTH: What I wish to know is, would it be possible for a particular County Council which had a special hostility to automobiles to apply to have that speed over its whole area?

Lord BALFOUR of BURLEIGH: It would be possible to apply for it, but I cannot conceive the Local Government Board granting the application.

Lord TWEEDMOUTH: Do I understand that it would be possible to have over the whole country a patchwork of different speeds according to the desires of the different local authorities?

Lord BALFOUR of BURLEIGH: I agree with the noble Lord that the fewer variations of speed the better. I think that there should not be, except in very exceptional circumstances, a very low limit of speed prescribed. I hope it will be found possible to have only one limit of speed in the great majority of places, not exceeding eight or twelve miles—a speed at which a motor-car, properly constructed, will be at least as safe as any horse-drawn carriage in the same area.

Lord TWEEDMOUTH: That is exactly my suggestion. I think it would be far preferable to name in the Bill a particular speed for the places indicated.

That, it seems to me, would be a very great improvement in the Bill, and I hope that the noble Lord, when we get into Committee, will consider an Amendment leading to that result.

LORD HENEAGE: I should like to ask the noble Lord whether, in the case of rural counties where a policeman is not very often to be found, and where motor-cars can go perfectly safely on long stretches of road, there should not be some general rule made by the Local Government Board that on approaching turns in the road, corners, or cross-roads, or inhabited districts, motor-cars should not travel beyond a certain speed. Motor-cars are becoming an absolute nuisance to the rural population in the country, and at the present moment it is almost impossible for farmers' wives or daughters to drive their husbands or fathers to the station, or go to fetch them, owing to the advent of the motor-car terror. I shall venture to move an Amendment dealing with this point when the Bill is in Committee.

On question, Bill read 2^a.

LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH: I have had a consultation with noble Lords opposite as to the date when the Committee stage of this Bill shall be taken. It will be inconvenient for the noble Earl the Chairman of Committees to be in the House on Monday, and therefore, subject to the general convenience of your Lordships, I will place the Committee stage down for Friday next.

Bill committed to a Committee of the Whole House on Friday next.

MARINE STORE DEALERS (IRELAND) BILL.

[SECOND READING.]

Order of the day for the Second Reading read.

THE EARL OF DENBIGH: My Lords, this is a Bill which has passed the other House with the general assent of all parties, and is for the purpose of remedying a defect in the law of Ireland and making it equal in this respect to the law of England and Scotland. The Bill, however, is framed more upon the lines of the Act which is in operation in Scotland. Its object is to compel marine store dealers and dealers in second-hand goods in Ireland to take out licences and to keep books and records to be open to the inspection of the police if necessary. It has been found that in Scotland this provision has had a good effect in preventing a certain class of theft—notably the theft of articles which are largely dealt in by marine store and general dealers. Of course, people who commit thefts of these articles can be prosecuted under the ordinary law, but the great difficulty is to trace the articles, and it has been found that there does exist in Ireland a need for a Bill of this description. The Act has worked well in Scotland. It has checked this kind of theft by placing considerable difficulties in the way of the disposal of the proceeds of these robberies, and has not interfered at all with honest persons in the transaction of their business.

Moved, That the Bill be now read 2^a.—(*The Earl of Denbigh.*)

On Question, Bill read 2^a, and committed to a Committee of the whole House on Monday next.

ELEMENTARY EDUCATION AMENDMENT BILL.

LUNACY ACTS (AMENDMENT) LONDON BILL [H.L.].

Reported from the Standing Committee without Amendment, and to be read 3^a on Thursday next.

PISTOLS BILL.

Reported from the Standing Committee with Amendments: The Report thereof to be received on Thursday next; and Bill to be printed as amended. (No. 164.)

THE FISCAL INQUIRY.

VISCOUNT GOSCHEN: I rise to ask my noble friend the President of the Council the Question of which I have given notice, namely:—"Whether the Board of Trade have had occasion to consider to what extent the excess of the country's imports over its exports is accounted for by the amount earned by British shipping, insurance, agency commissions, and profits, not included in the valuation of our exports, and by the interest on foreign investments owned in the United Kingdom, and whether, if the Board of Trade have made any such estimate, he will state the figures to the House." My noble friend promised to give me an answer to a Question I asked him the other day with reference to the time the information collected by the Government about fiscal matters would be placed before us.

THE LORD PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL (The Duke of DEVONSHIRE): It is the fact that recently, and also I believe upon former occasions, the Board of Trade have had occasion to consider how the payments are made which balance the excess of our imports over our exports; and all the elements which are enumerated in my noble friend's Question no doubt account for that excess. My noble friend has accurately stated the items in respect of which payment is received which make up the difference between the value of the imports and the value of the exports. It is, however, extremely difficult to state what are the actual amounts that are received in respect of each of those payments. What those amounts are must be a matter rather of speculation, which cannot be verified altogether by any statistics which exist. The Board of Trade have, in fact, no greatly superior means of arriving at positive conclusions on this subject than are in the possession of any skilled economist or statistician. My noble friend asks me to state what are the figures which have been arrived at by the Board of Trade; but I think it would be undesirable that I should attempt to do so without at the same time putting the House in possession of *data* upon which those conclusions have been arrived at and those figures have been estimated. It is doubtful whether any statement of such a nature resting on speculative rather than on positive *data* ought to be presented to Parliament on the authority of a Department of the Government. But I am in communication with the Board of Trade with the view of considering whether the information which my noble friend has asked for can be given in such a form as to prevent any misconception as to its authority, and the responsibility of the Board in regard to it. My noble friend asked me the other day the probable date when the information the Government is collecting will be in the hands of Members, and I think he specially asked whether it would be available before the month of October, when it has been promised, or rather threatened, that the discussion of this question is to commence. A large amount of information has already been collected, but much of it requires some revision and co-ordination. I am able, however, to inform my noble friend that a considerable part of it will certainly be laid on the Table of this House before the end of the session, and much of it, I hope, at a still earlier date.

VISCOUNT GOSCHEN: May I make one suggestion to my noble friend? It is whether, while he refers to the Board of Trade the question as to shipping and agency commissions, he should not consult the Treasury and the Inland Revenue with reference to the interest on foreign investments, which seems to me to fall more within their scope than the scope of the Board of Trade; or perhaps both Departments might consult together. I know, from my own connection with the Exchequer, that such investigations are occasionally made at the Treasury. I think I gathered from the noble Duke that, while he is not able to-day to give figures which account for the excess of our imports over our exports, he accepted the general position that the items which are enumerated in my Question do account together for that excess.

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: I think there is no doubt in the opinion of the authorities of the Board of Trade, who have examined the question, that the excess is accounted for by the payments which are enumerated in my noble friend's Question. I am under the impression that the Treasury have already been consulted in preparing this information; but, of course, before any Papers are laid on the Table of the House, both Departments will be consulted as to the information which they are able to give.

The subject then dropped.

THE LONDON EDUCATION BILL.

EARL SPENCER: I rise to ask the noble Duke the Lord President of the Council whether he can, as promised last night, make a statement as to the course of public business, particularly with regard to the London Education Bill.

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: It is impossible to speak with certainty of the London Education Bill, but it is hoped that it will be read the third time in the other House on Friday, 24th July. In that event the Second Reading will be taken in your Lordships' House on Tuesday, 28th July, and I suggest that the Committee Stage should be taken on the following Thursday. I understand that the noble Earl the Leader of the Opposition considers that the interval of two days between the Second Reading and the Committee too short, but what I had in view was to give the Thursday and the Friday to the Committee stage—finishing it on the Friday—in order to be able to take the Second Reading of the Irish Land Bill on the following Monday.

EARL SPENCER: I certainly thought the interval of two days between the Second Reading and the Committee Stage too short for the purpose of putting down Amendments. At the same time I do not wish to put the House in any difficulty. If it could be arranged that the Bill as it leaves the other House shall be at once circulated before it is read a first time in this House, I do not think there will be any objection to taking the Committee Stage on the Thursday, so that in the event of its lasting more than one night it could be concluded on the Friday.

House adjourned at a quarter past Seven o'clock, to Thursday next, a quarter past Four o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Tuesday, 14*th July*, 1903.

The House met at Two of the Clock.

THE CHAIRMAN OF WAYS AND MEANS.

The Clerk at the Table informed the House of the unavoidable absence of the Chairman of Ways and Means.

UNOPPOSED PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

PRIVATE BILLS [LORDS] (STANDING ORDERS NOT PREVIOUSLY INQUIRED INTO COMPLIED WITH).

MR. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bills, originating in the Lords, and referred on the First Reading thereof, the Standing Orders not previously inquired into, and which are applicable thereto, have been complied with, viz.:—Brighton Corporation Bill [Lords]; South Staffordshire Tramways Bill [Lords].

Ordered, That the Bills be read a second time.

Grindleford, Baslow, and Bakewell Railway Bill. Lords Amendments considered, and agreed to.

Cardiff Railway Bill [Lords]. Read the third time, and passed, with Amendments.

Croydon and District Electric Tramways Bill. Read the third time, and passed. [New Title.]

Scottish American Mortgage Company, Limited, Bill [Lords]. Read the third time, and passed, with Amendments.

Didcot, Newbury, and Southampton Railway Bill [Lords]. As amended, considered; Bill to be read the third time.

Mersey Docks and Harbour Board Bill [Lords]. As amended, considered; Amendments made; Bill to be read the third time.

Gosport and Fareham Tramways Bill [Lords]; Manchester Corporation Bill [Lords]; South Eastern and London, Chatham and Dover Railways Bill [Lords]. Read a second time, and committed.

Castleblaney, Keady, and Armagh Railway (Extension of Time) Bill. Ordered, That, in the case of the Castleblaney, Keady, and Armagh Railway (Extension of Time) Bill, Standing Orders 84, 214, 215, and 239 be suspended, and that the Bill be now taken into consideration provided amended prints shall have been previously deposited.—(*Mr. Caldwell.*)

Bill, as amended, considered accordingly.

Ordered, That Standing Orders Nos, 223 and 243 be suspended, and that the Bill be now read the third time.—(*Mr. Caldwell.*)

Bill accordingly read the third time, and passed.

Aston Manor Improvement Bill [Lords] [by Order]. Verbal Amendments made; Bill read the third time, and passed, with Amendments.

Hastings Harbour District Railway Bill [Lords] [by Order]. Read a second time, and committed.

Local Government Provisional Order (No. 16) Bill. Lords Amendments considered, and agreed to.

Tramways Orders Confirmation (No. 2) Bill [Lords]. Read a second time, and committed.

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.

That they have agreed to—Pier and Harbour Provisional Orders (No. 6) Bill, without Amendment.

Metropolitan District Railway (Various Powers) Bill; Great Northern Railway Bill; Midland and Belfast and Northern Counties Bailways Bill, with Amendments.

Amendments to Hexham Gas Bill [Lords], without Amendment.

PETITIONS.

CHURCH DISCIPLINE BILL.

Petition from Haggerston, against; to lie upon the Table.

GARRARD, CHARLES EAGLE.

Petition of Charles Eagle Garrard, for inquiry into his case; to lie upon the Table.

LICENCES RENEWAL AND TRANSFER BILL.

Petition from Little Hulton, against; to lie upon the Table.

LICENCES RENEWAL AND TRANSFER BILL AND LICENSING LAW (COMPENSATION FOR NON-RENEWAL) BILL.

Two Petitions from South Shields, against; to lie upon the Table.

LICENSING LAW (COMPENSATION FOR NON-RENEWAL) BILL.

Petition from Little Hulton, against; to lie upon the Table.

LICENSING (SCOTLAND) ACTS AMENDMENT BILL.

Petition from Edinburgh, for alteration; to lie upon the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

PATRIOTIC FUND.

Copy presented, of Forty-first Report of the Royal Commissioners of the Patriotic Fund [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

ARMY (STATEMENT OF EXCESSES) 1901–2.

Copy presented, of Statement of the Sum required to be voted in order to make good Excesses of Army Expenditure beyond the Grants for the year ended 31st March, 1902 [by Command]; referred to the Committee of Supply, and to be printed. [No. 255.]

EAST INDIA (ACCOUNTS AND ESTIMATES, 1903–4).

Copy presented, of Explanatory Memorandum by the Secretary of State for India [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

"Hyacinth" and "Minerva"—Repairs and Trials.

COLONEL DENNY (Kilmarnock Burghs): To ask the Secretary to the Admiralty what amount of time has been incurred in overhauls on the "Hyacinth" and "Minerva" respectively since the date of handing over of former by builders; how much of the time spent in these overhauls has been expended during the financial year ending 31st March, 1903; and what has been the mileage run on trials and commissions respectively by these ships since date of intimation to Boiler Committee that these vessels were ready for comparative trials.

(*Answered by Mr. Arnold-Forster.*) I am afraid I must ask my hon. friend to defer this Question for a few days longer. It is hoped that the information will be available by the beginning of next week, and I shall then be glad to give him a reply.

Workmen's Dwellings—Persons Dishoused by Ground Landlords.

MR. FIELD (Dublin, St. Patrick): To ask the President of the Local Government Board whether he will consider the advisability of extending to ground landlords who dishouse workers and refuse to grant sites for workers' dwellings the arrangement compelling railway companies to provide dwellings for workers who are dishoused owing to improvements or extensions.

(*Answered by Mr. Walter Long.*) A railway company who acquire houses occupied by persons of the labouring class are only required to make provision of the kind referred to in the Question where the houses are acquired in the exercise of Parliamentary powers conferred on them. The requirement is regarded as part of the Parliamentary bargain under which the power to acquire the houses is given. The case of the ground landlord does not appear to be analogous, and I am not prepared to propose the alteration in the law suggested.

Income Tax Returns.

MR. TANKERVILLE CHAMBERLAYNE (Southampton): To ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he is aware that forms are being issued by the Inland Revenue Office to landowners and others requiring them to state what their incomes from all sources amount to; and, if so, will he say whether it is compulsory for them to make this Return; and whether he will consider the advisability of dispensing with this Return in the case of landowners whose tenants pay the income tax and deduct it from their rent.

(*Answered by Mr. Ritchie.*) The forms of Return issued to landowners for the purpose of the quinquennial re-assessment of land and houses contain a form of claim for exemption or abatement of income tax, whereon any intending claimant is required to state the amount of his income from all sources, and it is to this, presumably, that the hon. Member refers. There is, however, no obligation to fill up this form, which is added merely in order to enable any person entitled to exemption or abatement to prefer his claim at the same time that he returns the particulars of the lands or houses in his occupation.

Public Holidays—Allowances to Officials on Piece-work.

SIR ANDREW AGNEW (Edinburgh, S.): To ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether it is the practice when Government offices are closed on occasions of public rejoicing, and the salaried clerks allowed a holiday on full pay, for an allowance to be made to the engrossing clerks and others who are paid for their work by results; and, if not, whether he will consider if such allowance can be made in future, so that such clerks shall not be losers through being forced to take a holiday.

(*Answered by Mr. Elliot.*) In special recognition of the Coronation holidays of last year, an allowance was made to engrossing clerks paid by piece-work in various public Departments. It is not, however, the rule that clerks employed on piece-work which does not occupy them throughout the year shall receive payment in respect of any particular day on which no work is done.

Value of Iron and Steel Exports.

MR. HERBERT SAMUEL (Yorkshire, Cleveland): To ask the President of the Board of Trade what is the weight and value of manufactured and partly manufactured steel and iron, and of pig iron exported from the United Kingdom from

1st January to 30th June this year and in the four previous half years.

(*Answered by Mr. Gerald Balfour.*) The following are the figures required by the hon. Member:—

Iron and steel and manufactures thereof (including pig iron) of British produce exported from the United Kingdom in:—

Six months ending—	Quantity. Tons.	Value. £
June, 1901 - -	1,404,000	12,617,000
December, 1901 -	1,494,000	12,666,000
June, 1902 - -	1,517,000	13,351,000
December, 1902 -	2,063,000	15,871,000
June, 1903 - -	1,874,000	15,590,000

The corresponding figures for pig iron alone are:—

Six months ending—	Quantity. Tons.	Value. £
June, 1901 - -	447,000	1,408,000
December, 1901 -	392,000	1,222,000
June, 1902 - -	378,000	1,181,000
December, 1902 -	725,000	2,389,000
June, 1903 - -	595,000	1,928,000

Value of Imports into British Colonies and Possessions from Foreign Countries.

MR. PARTINGTON (Derbyshire, High Peak): To ask the President of the Board of Trade, with reference to the Return [C. 1638], stating the value of the trade of the various British colonies and possessions with the United Kingdom, other British possessions, and foreign countries during the year 1901, can he state the value of manufactured goods, raw material, and food stuffs respectively, imported into our colonies and possessions from foreign countries during that year.

(*Answered by Mr. Gerald Balfour.*) This information cannot be given without notice.

Imports of Wheat from and Exports of Manufactures to the Colonies from 1832 to 1845.

MR. D. A. THOMAS (Merthyr Tydvil): To ask the President of the Board of Trade if he can state the extent of the preference given to colonial over foreign wheat in the Customs tariffs of this country from 1832 to 1845; and whether he has any official information showing how far the increase in the centesimal proportion of the declared value of British manufactures exported to our colonies, from 27·82 in 1832 to 28·04 in 1845, was a consequence of the preference shown by the mother country; and if he can state the percentage increase or decrease in the exports to the colonies of our total exports since the abandonment of any preferential Customs treatment.

(*Answered by Mr. Gerald Balfour.*) The information asked for in the first and last parts of this Question cannot be supplied without notice. The answer to the second part is in the negative.

Value of Coal Exports.

MR. MANSFIELD (Lincolnshire, Spalding): To ask the President of the Board of Trade, will he state the total value of coal exported from this country during 1902, and state approximately how much of that amount represents labour and carriage, and how much represents the value of the coal in the pit.

(*Answered by Mr. Gerald Balfour.*) The value of coal exported from the United Kingdom in 1902 was £26,307,351, exclusive of bunker coal. The last part of the Question is of a speculative character, and cannot be answered from official statistics.

Beaumaris County School—Financial Difficulties.

MR. ELLIS GRIFFITH (Anglesey): To ask the Secretary to the Board of Education whether, in view of the financial difficulties experienced by the Governors of the Beaumaris County School, owing to inadequate provisions in the Anglesey county scheme under The Welsh Intermediate Education Act, 1889, the Board of Education intend to take steps to remedy the defect, either by means of the powers conferred upon them by the Education Act, 1902, or by some other method.

(*Answered by Sir William Anson.*) The Board have given the most careful consideration to the financial condition of this school, and have reluctantly come to the conclusion that the case cannot be satisfactorily dealt with until Part II. of the Education Act of last year has come into force in Anglesey.

Reductions in the Basket Shop Staff at Mount Pleasant Factory.

CAPTAIN NORTON (Newington, W.): To ask the Postmaster-General if he will state what is the reason for the recent discharges at the basket shop at the Mount Pleasant Factory; and if it is the intention in future to have the baskets repaired by private firms instead of employing the men direct, as at present.

(*Answered by Mr. Austen Chamberlain.*) It has recently been decided to do more of the repairing of parcel baskets by contract at local centres, and this change has involved a reduction in the number of repairers employed at the Mount Pleasant Factory.

Sale of Fewston (Yorkshire) Glebe Lands.

MR. DUNCAN (Yorkshire, W.R., Otley): To ask the hon. Member for North Huntingdonshire, as representing the President of the Board of Agriculture, if the approval of the Land Commissioners has been given, or will be given, to the sale of the Fewston, Yorkshire, Glebe Lands; if Section 1 of Clause 8 of The Glebe Lands Act, 1888, has been complied with; what steps were taken to inquire if the sanitary authority for the district desired a portion to be set apart for the purposes of the Allotments Act; and what evidence was taken to discover if the price for the glebe land would be injuriously affected by its division.

(*Answered by Mr. Ailwyn Fellowes.*) We were satisfied, after inquiry, that the proposed sale of glebe land would be for the permanent benefit of the benefice of Fewston, and the formal approval of the Board to the sale is therefore about to be given. The requirements of Section 8 (1) of The Glebe Lands Act, 1888, have been satisfied. The Board ascertained by direct inquiry of the sanitary authority that no portion of the land was required for the purposes of the Allotments Acts, and they also ascertained by special inquiry in the parish that there was no demand for the glebe in small parcels by cottagers, labourers, and others.

Increase in the Number of Metropolitan Magistrates.

MR. H. D. GREENE (Shrewsbury): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether, in view of the representations of magistrates and Reports of Departmental Committees extending back for many years as to the necessity for increasing the number of metropolitan magistrates, His Majesty's Government intend to take steps to enable additional appointments to be made.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Akers Douglas.*) This question has been, as the hon. Member indicates, the subject of several representations and has engaged the attention of successive Secretaries of State. It is true that difficulties occasionally arise with the present number of magistrates, especially when one of the magistrates attached to a Police Court is absent on leave and the other is unable, *e.g.*, by reason of sudden illness, to attend; but in view of the normal amount of work in the Courts my predecessors have felt great difficulty in pressing on the Treasury the appointment of additional magistrates. I do not, however, think that the matter has been considered as finally settled, and it shall have my consideration.

Irish Firms and the King's Visit.

MR. FIELD: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he will explain why the Irish Local Government Board did not afford to Irish firms the opportunity of tendering for the work at Dublin Castle arising from the King's visit, and why workmen and materials were imported; and whether he can state the amount of money to be so expended.

(*Answered by Mr. Elliot.*) The erection of a temporary building at Dublin Castle was entrusted to a London firm for reasons of urgency, as constant reference has to be made to the authorities at Buckingham Palace. The whole of the timber required for the building is supplied by a Dublin firm, and many Irish workmen are employed. Where reasons of urgency do not apply, the work in connection with the King's visit has been given to Irish contractors. I am unable to say the exact sum which will be so expended.

Return of Ranges in the United Kingdom.

MR. COURTENAY WARNER (Staffordshire, Lichfield): To ask the Secretary of State for War if he will give a Return of the number of ranges in the United Kingdom, giving the situation, range, and number of available targets for each range; also the number of Government ranges that have been closed during the last year, and the number that have been opened; also the number and description of ranges being constructed.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Brodrick.*) The Return will be given if the hon. Member will move for it.

"Pass School" Certificates for Militia and Volunteer Officers.

MR. PARTINGTON: To ask the Secretary of State for War if it is possible for Militia and Volunteer officers to get pass school certificates without going through the course at a London barracks.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Brodrick.*) Militia and Volunteer officers can obtain a pass school certificate at schools other than that at Chelsea Barracks. There are schools for Infantry officers at Glasgow and Edinburgh, and others will be formed as required. Artillery officers can obtain certificates at the schools of instruction at Leith, Golden Hill, Sheerness, and Plymouth. and Engineers at the School of Military Engineering, Chatham.

Canadian Government Railways—British and Foreign Tenders for Locomotives.

MR. LEVY (Leicestershire, Loughborough): To ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether, in view of the contract for locomotives recently given by Canada to a Glasgow firm, he will inquire from the Canadian Government and inform the House the difference in price between the accepted tender and the lowest tender of a foreign firm, and state the percentage of preference given by the tariff to the Glasgow firm as against the lowest tender from a foreign nation.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Chamberlain.*) The locomotives were bought by the Canadian Pacific Railway, not by the Canadian Government, and it would be unusual to ask them to disclose either the amount of the successful tender or that of the lowest foreign tender. I am informed that the preference given to the British firm amounts in the case of each locomotive to fully £500.

QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE.

South African War Medals.

MAJOR SEELY (Isle of Wight): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether, seeing that large numbers of men in the Army or recently discharged have not yet received South African war medals to which they are entitled, he will say whether this delay is caused by undue centralisation at Woolwich; and, if so, whether he will consider the desirability of despatching the medals to officers commanding units, making them responsible for the engraving and distribution of the medals.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO THE WAR OFFICE (Lord STANLEY, Lancashire, Westhoughton): As I have already explained to the House, considerable time is required for checking the rolls which in many cases were not correct. Up to the 30th June 390,261 medals and 982,070 clasps had been issued. Commanding officers are now responsible for the distribution, but to make them responsible for the engraving would hardly appear expeditious. The greatest possible efforts have been made to expedite production both at the Mint and Woolwich.

Damaged Tinned Rations.

MR. CATHCART WASON (Orkney and Shetland): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War if, in view of the Report with reference to damaged tinned meats, he will ascertain whether such damage has been caused by bad meat being tinned, defective tinning, or inferior tin, and also state the amount of tinned meat that is held by the War Office in stock; and whether periodical examinations will be ordered in the future.

*LORD STANLEY: There is no reason to suppose that the damage was due to bad meat being tinned, defective tinning, or inferior tin, but inquiries are being made on the two latter points. The analyses made at home by the Government Analyst, Somerset House, of samples of the rations before they left England were all satisfactory. The stock of preserved meat maintained is 2,000,000 lbs. It is examined periodically according to the regulations.

MR. COURTENAY WARNER (Staffordshire, Lichfield): How often does "periodically" mean—once a month or once a year?

*LORD STANLEY: I do not remember exactly, but I should imagine certainly once a year. Of course, only a percentage is taken.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND (Clare, E.): Is it not the fact that an inquiry is taking place in reference to the damaged stores in South Africa which had to be destroyed?

*LORD STANLEY: Certainly.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND: And, in view of the enormous quantity of rations that had to be destroyed, will steps be taken not to employ the same contractors again?

MR. SPEAKER: That is the subject of another Question.

MR. KEIR HARDIE (Merthyr Tydvil): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether he proposes acting upon the recommendation of the Report of the Board of Officers, which inquired into the destruction of meat and vegetable rations at Pretoria, and recover from the contractors the cost of the rations destroyed; which of the firms named, if any, of those who supplied these rations are to be struck off the War Office list; and whether rations supplied during the war by any of the firms named in the Report were condemned; and, if so, were the rations so condemned destroyed or returned to the contractor.

*LORD STANLEY: Until the full liability of the contractors is ascertained from South Africa it will not be possible to consider the question of recovery of cost. Very few complaints have been received as regards the various brands of meat and vegetable rations; it is understood that they gave general satisfaction. Contractors, when responsible for condemned rations, have to make good the loss either in money or in kind.

MR. KEIR HARDIE: Were any of the rations returned to the contractors?

*LORD STANLEY: No, they were destroyed.

MR. DILLON (Mayo, E.): Who is responsible for passing these contracts, and what action are the Government going to take?

*LORD STANLEY: We are making further inquiries before we take any further action. With regard to who the contractors were and what proportion of what each contractor supplied was examined, I hope the House will excuse me at the present moment from saying what our course of action will be; but if we find that the contractors are liable the House may rest assured that we shall act fully up to our contract.

MR. KEIR HARDIE: Will fuller information be in the hands of Members by Thursday when the War Office Vote comes on for discussion?

*LORD STANLEY: I hope so. We cabled for particulars on Thursday or Friday in last week.

MR. DILLON: The noble Lord has not stated whether he will also give information as to who were the responsible advisers of the War Office in accepting these rations?

[No answer was returned.]

Employment of Retired Officers.

MR. HENNIKER HEATON (Canterbury): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether he is aware that every officer on retired pay from the British Army has to make a declaration, before receiving his allowance, that during the previous quarter he has not held any place of employment or profit, civil or military, in the British colonies or possessions beyond the seas; and whether, seeing that officers who have been retired from the British Army and given their services to a colony enjoying responsible Government thereby do not in any way injure or impair the efficiency of the British Army or involve any charge upon the taxpayer, and that retired officers are allowed to become company directors, and that in two cases the colonies have been deprived of the services of matured Army officers, who would have been punished by being deprived of their half-pay or pensions if they had taken service under the Australian Government, he will state the date of the Order referred to, and whether it was based on the Report of a Commission; and whether he can see his way to abolish the Order.

LORD STANLEY: The answer to the first sentence of the Question is "Yes." As regards the second the regulation is based on the military ground that the colonies would, as a rule, obtain better military service from officers on the active list, and that retired pay should not be drawn concurrently with full pay. The rule dates from the 16th September, 1887; it was not based on the Report of a Commission. Officers on retired pay are bound to serve again up to the age of fifty if retired as lieutenant or captain; fifty-five if retired in other ranks below that of general officer, and sixty-seven if retired as general officer, if called upon, and it would seem inequitable that retired officers employed by a colony should be treated more favourably than those employed under the Imperial Government.

Quick Firing Gun Trials.

MAJOR SEELY: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether a pattern of quick-firing gun, for issue to the Royal Horse and Field Artillery, has been decided upon; and, if so, when the manufacture of the guns will be commenced and when they will be issued.

LORD STANLEY: Trials of Horse and Field Artillery Guns are being carried out but a final decision has not been arrived at.

Fiji.

MR. CATHCART WASON: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies if, in view of the allegations made against the administration in Fiji, he will appoint an independent Commission to report on the same, or refer the said allegations to a Committee of this House.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES (Mr. J. CHAMBERLAIN, Birmingham, W.): No, Sir. The recently appointed Governor is fully competent to conduct the inquiry, upon which he is actively engaged.

Egyptian Finance.

MR. BRYNMOR JONES (Swansea District): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether any, and, if so, what steps have been taken or are proposed to be taken to remove the financial difficulties imposed upon Egypt by the Laws of Liquidation referred to by Lord Cromer in several of his annual reports.

THE UNDER SECRETARY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (Lord CRANBORNE, Rochester): The present arrangements must in any case remain in force till 1905. I hope, therefore, the hon. Gentleman will not press me to make any statement on this subject at present.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES (Lynn Regis): Why must it remain in force?

LORD CRANBORNE: Because it is the law.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES: It is not a matter of Convention then? Is it the law of England?

LORD CRANBORNE: I must ask for notice.

Egyptian Judicial System.

MR. BRYNMOR JONES: I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he is aware that inconvenience, delay, and undue expense are caused in regard to the administration of justice in Egypt by the existence of divers jurisdictions; and whether any steps are being taken to simplify and unify the judicial system of Egypt; and, if not, will he state whether he will take any action in that direction.

LORD CRANBORNE: The system of mixed tribunals in Egypt is an International arrangement, and the consent of the Powers would be necessary before any change could be introduced. His Majesty's Government are not prepared at this moment to take any initiative in the direction indicated.

The Assouan Dam.

MR. WEIR (Ross and Cromarty): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs if he will state the increased area of land which has been brought into cultivation by means of the Assouan Dam; and whether it is proposed to make any alteration in the dam or reservoir such as will admit of a greater storage of water.

LORD CRANBORNE: As the Assouan Dam was only opened at the end of last year any attempt to obtain statistics as to the increased area of land under cultivation would at present be premature and none have yet been received. I understand that it is not proposed at present to make any alterations in the dam.

Provision for the Destitute in Egypt.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs if he will state what provision is made by the Government in Egypt for the housing and care of orphan children and destitute poor.

LORD CRANBORNE: His Majesty's Government have not received any definite information, but Lord Cromer will be asked to report on the subject.

Anglo-Egyptian Convention.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, having regard to the fact that the assent of Turkey, the Suzerain Power of Egypt, was not obtained to the Anglo-Egyptian Convention of 19th January, 1899, relative to the Soudan, and that by virtue of Lord Granville's despatch of 3rd January, 1884, the Egyptian Government could not withhold its assent, will he say whether the Convention is valid.

LORD CRANBORNE: The answer is in the affirmative.

Corn Prices Return.

MR. TREVELYAN (Yorkshire, W.R., Elland): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether he will grant the Return of Corn Prices, notice of which stands on to-day's Paper.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF TRADE (Mr. GERALD BALFOUR, Leeds, Central): I regret that I cannot grant this Return. The matter has been carefully considered in consultation with the Board of Agriculture, and it is found that part of the information desired cannot be supplied, and that the compilation of the remainder would involve great labour without yielding a satisfactory result.

Appended is the Return referred to:—

Return of (1) the average monthly price for each month of the years 1875 to 1903 of wheat, maize, barley, oats, and rye, at the following producing places, specifying in the case of wheat the accompanying standards: New York, No. 2 red winter wheat; Chicago, No. 2 red winter wheat; Montreal, No. 1 hard Manitoban wheat; Buenos Ayres, Standard Plate wheat; Bombay, No. 1 Bombay wheat; Calcutta, No. 2 Club Calcutta; and at the following consuming places, specifying the above standards in the case of wheat: Liverpool, London, Hull, Havre, Marseilles, Paris, Hamburg, Berlin, Barcelona, Madrid, Amsterdam, and Antwerp; the prices to be calculated per 112 lbs. English, and to be the market price, and not the official values; the taxed and untaxed returns to be given at ports where both are mentioned; and (2) the tariff in operation at each period in each place.

Post Office and Trustee Savings Bank.

MR. LUNDON (Limerick, E.): On behalf of the hon. Member for the St. Patrick Division of Dublin I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether he will state the present number of post office savings banks and also the present number of savings bank depositors in England and Ireland respectively, the present number of trustee savings banks and also the present number of trustee savings bank depositors in England and Ireland respectively and whether greater facilities exist in England than in Ireland for trustee savings bank depositors.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY (Mr. ELLIOT, Durham): The number of post offices at which savings bank business is transacted is in England and Wales, 11,626, with 8,469,000 depositors, in Ireland, 1,269, with 433,000 depositors. The number of trustee savings banks is in England and Wales, 157, with 1,076,000 depositors, in Ireland, 13, with 52,000 depositors. The Statute Law is the same for all trustee savings banks, whether in England or in Ireland; and if there are greater facilities in England than in Ireland for the more frequent deposit or withdrawal of money, this is due to the arrangements made by the banks themselves.

Religious Instruction in Elementary Schools.

DR. MACNAMARA (Camberwell, N.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Board of Education whether it would be competent, in connection with the new model by-laws affecting attendance at religious instruction in the elementary schools, for local authorities to enact that religious instruction shall be given at the close of a school session; and whether such a course would be competent both in respect of non-provided schools as well as provided schools.

THE PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION (Sir WILLIAM ANSON, Oxford University): The time or times at which religious or other instruction should be given in a school should be regulated in the time table. The power to make by-laws is limited to the purposes specified in Section 74 of the Act of 1870. The time or times for religious instruction are prescribed in Section 7 (2) of that Act; and under Section 7 (1) (a) of the Act of last year the directions as to secular instruction which may be given by a local authority to the managers of a voluntary school must not be such as to interfere with reasonable facilities for religious instruction during school hours.

Mayo Piers and Harbours.

DR. AMBROSE (Mayo, W.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he has received a copy of the report of the county surveyor for Mayo regarding the usefulness of certain piers and harbours along the coast of Mayo, notably those at Clare Island, Louisburgh, and Mallaranny; and whether he will see that the improvements mentioned in the report are carried out; and can he state when the proposed works at Innishlyre and Tonragee will be commenced.

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL FOR IRELAND (Mr. ATKINSON, Londonderry, N.): My right hon. friend has received from the hon. Member a copy of the report in question. It suggests improvements in a number of piers and harbours in South Mayo which are the property of the County Council. It is not proposed to expend any of the funds provided by the Marine Works Act on these works. It is competent to the County Council to undertake them at the expense of the county. In reply to the concluding inquiry my right hon. friend stated yesterday † that he is engaged in negotiations with the Midland Great Western Railway Company and that no conclusion has yet been arrived at.

Foreign Trawlers in Dingle Bay.

MR. THOMAS O'DONNELL (Kerry, W.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether any action has been taken on the conduct of foreign steam trawlers in Dingle Bay on the night of 15th June; whether, seeing that they not only fished within the line but chased and tried to run down a local sailing fishing smack, and that a statement was made to the coastguards giving the numbers on the boats, steps will at once be taken to punish the owners of these trawlers.

MR. ATKINSON: The occurrences in question have been carefully investigated by the new Department but no evidence is forthcoming sufficient to sustain a prosecution for illegal trawling within the prohibited area.

---

† See page 410.

MR. THOMAS O'DONNELL: Seeing that the lives of fishermen were endangered and that the numbers on the boats were given cannot further inquiry be made?

MR. ATKINSON: The matter has been investigated by the Department of Agriculture, but the evidence of the fishermen is not sufficiently definite.

MR. FLAVIN (Kerry, N.): Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that for years, along the west coast of Kerry——

MR. SPEAKER: Order, order.

MR. FLAVIN: Then arising out of the Question—

MR. SPEAKER: That does not make it any better.

MR. FLAVIN: I want to know what steps the Government are going to take to protect the fishermen on the west coast? Cannot they spare a gunboat?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Member can bring that matter up on the Estimates.

Portarlington Post Office—Case of Maria Blanc.

MR. DELANY (Queen's Co., Ossory): I beg to ask the Postmaster-General whether he is aware that Miss Maria Blanc, assistant in Portarlington Post Office for the past twenty-eight and a half years, has been called upon to retire without gratuity or pension; and, if so, whether, in view of her long service and conduct, he will state upon what grounds this official has been retired, and why she has been refused either pension or gratuity.

THE POSTMASTER-GENERAL (Mr. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN, Worcestershire, E.): Miss Blanc's retirement was carried out because she was reported to be no longer capable of discharging her duties efficiently. The conditions of her employment were not such as to render her eligible for either pension or gratuity on retirement.

MR. DELANY: Does the right hon. Gentleman think it to be in the public interest that an employee, after twenty-eight years faithful service, should be discharged without a pension?

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: The award of a pension or gratuity is regulated by statute, and I have no power whatever to vary the regulations.

Irish Post Office Savings Bank.

MR. LUNDON: On behalf of the hon. Member for the St. Patrick Division of Dublin I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury what number of savings bank depositors in the United Kingdom in the year 1902, with Irish, Scotch, or English deposit books, made deposits or received withdrawals outside of Ireland, Scotland, or England respectively; and whether it is more economical and convenient to keep Irish Savings Bank accounts in London for the convenience of such depositors than to give Ireland greater facilities for Post Office Savings Bank business by having the accounts kept in Dublin.

MR. LUNDON: I beg also to ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether the present number of officials employed on the Irish Savings Bank accounts in London would be sufficient to deal with such accounts if they were kept in Dublin; and, if so, in what way would it cost more to deal with Irish Savings Bank accounts by a special staff at Dublin if such accounts were kept there instead of in London.

MR. ELLIOT: I will answer these Questions at the same time. I regret that I am unable to give the figures asked for in the hon. Member's first Question. I do not think it would be right to diminish the facilities which the depositors to whom he refers now enjoy, and the transfer of the accounts to Dublin would not afford any increased facilities to Irish depositors. The answer to the first part of the hon. Member's other Question is in the negative. If the Irish Savings Bank accounts were kept in Dublin, additional controlling force would be necessary, and extra staff would be necessary to deal with the extra work which decentralisation would involve.

Kells Railway Station.

MR. BOLAND (Kerry, S.): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether he is aware that the railway station at Kells, County Kerry, is inconveniently placed for the needs of the district; and whether he will make representations to the railway company with a view to having flag stations constructed at Dooneen and Mount Foley.

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: No complaints appear to have been received by the Board of Trade with regard to the position of this station, but a copy of the hon. Member's Question has been communicated to the railway company concerned. The company have replied that the station at Kells is not, in their opinion, inconveniently placed for the needs of the district, and that there is no prospect of sufficient traffic to justify the creation of flag stations at the places mentioned.

The Fiscal Inquiry.

MR. MANSFIELD (Lincolnshire, Spalding): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury if he will give the particulars of the inquiry into the fiscal policy of this country, stating the various headings under which information is required, and what the Government wish to ascertain by the grand inquest of the nation.

The HON. MEMBER also had the following Questions on the Paper:—

To ask the First Lord of the Treasury if he is prepared to consider the necessity of instituting legislation to secure a minimum wage with other matters relating to the proposed changes in the fiscal policy of the country.

To ask the First Lord of the Treasury if he can now state whether it is the intention of the Government to establish a fiscal union between this country and the self-governing colonies; what colonies would be included within the union; the terms on which they would enter; and the method by which the fiscal arrangements of the union, and of individual countries within the union, would be controlled.

THE PRIME MINISTER AND FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Mr. A. J. BALFOUR, Manchester, E.): With regard to all these Questions I have only a negative answer to give.

MR. BRYCE (Aberdeen, S.): I wish to ask the right hon. Gentleman whether, considering that the House has been invited to join in the inquiry which the Government is making, he does not intend to give the House any information whatever with regard to the nature, method, topics, and time when the result of the inquiry will be announced.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I was not asked that Question, but I am perfectly ready to answer it. Of course, we shall be ready, in due time, to give the House and the country all the information at our disposal.

MR. BRYCE: What does the right hon. Gentleman mean by "due time."

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: The right hon. Gentleman must be perfectly aware that to prepare tables of statistics is not a thing which can be done in twenty-four hours, or even forty-eight hours.

MR. BRYCE: Then is there reason to expect that we shall have some result of the inquiry before the end of the present session?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: Oh, I should think that there is reason to hope that.

MR. LOUGH (Islington, W.): Will the right hon. Gentleman tell us what fresh statistics are being prepared which do not exist?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: The hon. Member will have every means of gratifying his curiosity when the Papers are laid.

MR. CATHCART WASON: I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury, in view of the fact that the food imports of the country have increased during the last half-century from £35,813,613 to £162,776,280, and also that during the same time there has been a decrease in the cultivation of land, measures will be taken by the Government to prohibit land from being held in extensive areas for purposes of amusement.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I have no opportunity of testing the accuracy of the statistics which the hon. Gentleman has put in his Question, but I do not think it would be desirable to propose any legislation for restricting the area devoted to public amusement.

MR. CATHCART WASON: I do not think that the right hon. Gentleman has understood my Question. I refer to land held for private amusement.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I do not know what land the hon. Gentleman refers to.

MR. WEIR: Deer forests.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I confess that was the first interpretation I put on the Question, but it occurred to me afterwards that the two Gentlemen who knew the Highlands so well were probably aware that deer forests are not very well suited for growing wheat.

MR. WEIR: Does the right hon. Gentleman know that they are suitable for cattle breeding and sheep?

[No answer was returned.]

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether, in view of a possible change in the fiscal policy of the country, and the consequent necessity for raising in the United Kingdom as large a food supply as possible, will the Government make such arrangements as may be necessary to enable the people of the Highlands and Islands of Scotland to settle on the lands which have been scheduled in the Report of the Deer Forests Commission as suitable for occupation by the people.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: As I have already indicated to the hon. Gentleman, I see no connection between legislation for deer forests and fiscal reform. I have already answered Questions several times on the subject of deer forests, and I have nothing to add.

MR. WEIR: Does the right hon. Gentleman not know that they will support cattle and sheep?

AN HON. MEMBER: And men.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I do not see the relevancy.

MR. BLACK (Banffshire): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether, in connection with the Colonial Secretary's proposals for revision of our fiscal system, the Cabinet is inquiring into the expediency of establishing an Imperial Council on which the colonies as well as the mother country may be represented.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: No, Sir. Any such inquiry is evidently extremely premature, and it would be foolish to attempt to ask for statistical information on this subject from any Government Department.

MR. BLACK: Then do I understand that the Government contemplate interfering with the fiscal arrangements of the colonies without even considering the question of allowing them representation in the councils of the mother country?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I do not know on what the hon. Member bases his theory that we are going to interfere with the fiscal arrangements of the colonies.

MR. BLACK: Is it not implied in the proposals of the Colonial Secretary?

MR. SPEAKER: Order, Order!

Housing of the Working Classes.

DR. MACNAMARA: I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury if he can now fix the date for the introduction of the Bill to deal with certain matters affecting the housing of the working classes.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I hope the day will be an early one. I will give the hon. Gentleman full notice.

SELECTION (STANDING COMMITTEES).

MR. HALSEY reported from the Committee of Selection: That they had discharged the following member from the Standing Committee on Law, and Courts of Justice, and Legal Procedure: Mr. Samuel Roberts; and had appointed in substitution: Mr. Lees Knowles.

Report to lie upon the Table.

NEW BILL.

NAVAL WORKS (PORTSMOUTH BARRACKS SITE) BILL.

"For vesting in the Admiralty certain lands at Portsmouth with the church and buildings thereon for the purpose of, or in connection with, the erection of barracks and for other matters incidental thereto," presented by Mr. Pretyman; to be read a second time upon Wednesday 22nd July, and to be printed. [Bill 276.]

LONDON EDUCATION BILL.

As amended, considered.

MR. SPEAKER said he thought it well to make a short statement as to several of the proposed new clauses. The body of the Bill applied the Act of 1902 to London and proposed to make certain provisions as regarded the management of schools by the London boroughs, and anything in the way of Amendment to, or modification of, the Act of 1902 as applied to London was put into a schedule. The whole of the new clauses, with the exception of one or two, which were down on the Paper would be out of order as new clauses and should be brought up as Amendments to the schedule, possibly in a somewhat altered form. There were some, however, to which that remark did not apply—for instance, the second, standing in the name of the hon. Member for North Camberwell, which would involve an increase of rates. The same observation applied to the clause dealing with compensation to teachers of voluntary schools, and also to the two last clauses in the names of the hon. Members for Haggerston and West Islington. Proposals involving rate expenditure could not, as the hon. Members knew, be made on the Report stage.

DR. MACNAMARA (Camberwell, N.): When will it be possible to raise the question embodied in the first new clause, as to the right of the public to inspect official documents?

MR. SPEAKER: By moving an Amendment to the schedule. As the hon. Member knows, in the Act of 1902 there is provision made for keeping Minutes, and it would be perfectly in order on that to move that they be open to inspection.

MR. BRYCE (Aberdeen, S.): May I inquire whether the effect of your ruling is that the points embodied in the new clauses will have to be handed in as Amendments to the schedule?

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, but I think the right hon. Gentleman will find that many things dealt with in the new clauses are already provided for in the Act of 1902.

MR. BRYCE: Would it be in order for me on that point to address a few observations to the Government and to the House with regard to the difficulty, owing to your ruling, of proceeding with the Bill at this moment?

MR. SPEAKER: I think that had better be done when the Amendments are called on.

MR. LOUGH (Islington, W.): May I call attention to the new clause providing that the Act shall not apply to the City of London? Is that affected by your ruling?

MR. SPEAKER: I omitted to mention that. It should come on as an Amendment to Clause 1.

MR. BRYCE moved to omit Clause 1 (Application of the Act of 1902 to London), to give the House an opportunity of repeating by a division its protest against the application to London of the Act of 1902. What had happened since the passing of that Act had not in any way diminished, but rather increased, their objections to it, and it was their duty to register their protest against the application of the principles of the Act to London. He asked the House to re-affirm its condemnation of the Bill of 1902.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"To leave out Clause 1."—(*Mr. Bryce.*)

Question proposed, "That the words of Clause 1, to the word 'so,' in line 6, stand part of the Bill."

THE PRIME MINISTER AND FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Mr. A. J. BALFOUR, Manchester, E.) said he thought the course pursued by the right hon. Gentleman was surely one of the most singular that was ever taken in that House. He was not going to ask the House to come to a decision on the merits of the clause, or even on the merits of this Bill. He was asking the House to come to a decision on the merits of an Act passed into law after several months of hard debating last year. If the right hon. Gentleman thought that anything was to be gained by a protest of course he was at liberty to make it; but he did not understand, he never understood, that their Parliamentary procedure lent itself to the particular interpretation which the right hon. Gentleman had put on his own Amendment, when he moved to leave out a clause, not because he objected to the clause, but because he objected to some other Bill which had already become an Act.

MR. BRYCE: I object to the application of the principles and rules contained in the Act of last year to the population of London.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR said if the right hon. Gentleman's speech had been confined to that thesis it would have been perfectly within the practice of the House. Of course, it amounted to a Second Reading speech compressed, and he supposed the right hon. Gentleman desired to take a Second Reading division upon it. But, at all events, half the speech he made was not concerned with the clause nor with the Bill at all. His object was to renew the protest which he and his friends made last year. He thought there was not an educationist in the country who did not think the Bill of last year and the Bill of this year were of the greatest educational importance. (OPPOSITION cries of "Oh.") He was not speaking of hon. Gentlemen opposite, but of educationists. He knew the opinions of hon. Gentlemen opposite because he heard them expressed for seven months, and education was the last topic that they ever discussed. They talked a great deal about voluntary schools and denominational teaching, and other matters indirectly connected with the substantial interest of education, but education pure and simple was the last thing they spoke of. (OPPOSITION cries of "Oh," and an HON. MEMBER "Nonsense.") He would qualify his phrase by saying it was the thing about which they spoke least. As to what was in their minds he knew nothing, but their speeches he did hear; and he had an absolute right to say that if the views of hon. Gentlemen opposite were rightly interpreted by their speeches, it was not the educational aspect of the Bill of last year, or the Bill of this year, which chiefly interested them, but certain controversial subjects which unhappily could not be dissociated entirely from any Bill dealing with elementary education in this country. It was on those subjects that they had agitated the country, and topics relating to the really great interest of education they had left severely alone. If the right hon. Gentleman thought he was adding to his fame as an educational authority by the line he had taken on the Bill of last year and the Bill of this year he was, he could assure him, very seriously mistaken. The right hon. Gentleman said he was moving to omit this clause because it extended the Bill of last year to London. He could understand, though he did not sympathise with, those who thought that the Bill of last year, whatever it might have done for education, nevertheless did certain things in other directions to which they objected, and therefore desired that the Bill should not become an Act. But as it had become an Act, he could not understand how any hon. Gentleman could desire that it should not be extended to London. He believed that hon. Gentlemen opposite anticipated that the time would come very shortly when they would be in a position to remodel the Act of last year. When that time came he should wish them joy of their task. He should look forward with great interest to the course which they would then desire to pursue. But the remodelling of the Act of last year would not be rendered more difficult by the fact that it had been extended to London. On the contrary, their task would be easier if the whole of the country were under one principle. They would gain nothing if London was left out of the Bill; and, meanwhile, London would be left as an educational derelict. Unless this Bill was passed, London would be deprived of the fund which that House desired to give for educational purposes; not only the voluntary schools, but also the provided schools in London would suffer, and the whole system of educational co-ordination would be left in a condition which no one in that House could view with satisfaction. Was it the policy of the Opposition not merely to modify the Act of last year, but also in the meanwhile to keep London under the old system? Such an idea was absurd, and he could not understand the right hon. Gentleman's lending the authority of his name in educational matters to a proposal which he was certain would be rejected by all London if London had a chance of expressing its opinion. He would not dogmatise by discussing whether London liked or disliked the general principle underlying the Bill. The Opposition might be right in saying that the country disliked the line on which the Government had proceeded. Then let the country alter that line. But meanwhile it was absurd to suppose that education, primary and secondary, was to be co-ordinated in every county and county borough in England, and voluntary and provided schools were to be given much needed assistance, while London alone should be deprived of the benefits of the Act of last year, and the money intended for her should be left in the hands of the Chancellor of the Exchequer. The amiable intention of the right hon. Gentleman ought to be foiled, and his Amendment ought to be rejected.

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 125; Noes, 74. (Division List No. 156.)

AYES.

Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Ambrose, Robert
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Atkinson, Right Hon. John
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J. (*Manch'r*
Balfour, Captain C. B. (*Hornsey*
Balfour, Rt. Hn Gerald W (*Leeds*
Bartley, Sir George C. T.
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Boland, John
Bond, Edward
Bull, William James
Campbell, John (*Armagh, S.*)
Carew, James Laurence
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Cavendish, V C W (*Derbysh.*)
Cecil, Evelyn (*Aston Manor*)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hn. J. (*Birm.*
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Collings, Right Hon. Jesse
Colomb, Sir John Chas. Ready
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Cavendish, V. C. W. (*Derbysh.*)
Cranborne, Viscount
Crossley, Rt. Hon. Sir Savile
Cubitt, Hon. Henry
Delany, William
Denny, Colonel
Devlin, Chas. Ramsay (*Galway*
Dillon, John
Donelan, Captain A.
Doogan, P. C.
Doughty, George
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers
Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas
Faber, E. B. (*Hants, W.*)
Fardell, Sir T. George
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
FitzGerald, Sir Robert Penrose-
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Flower, Ernest
Forster, Henry William
Galloway, William Johnson
Gilhooly, James
Godson, Sir Augustus Fredk.
Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir J. Eldon
Gretton, John
Groves, James Grimble
Hayden, John Patrick
Heaton, John Henniker
Hobhouse, Rt Hn H. (*Somers't, E*
Houldsworth, Sir Wm. Henry
Hoult, Joseph
Howard J. (*Midd., Tottenham*
Jeffreys, Rt. Hn. Arthur Fred
Joyce, Michael
Kenyon-Slaney, Col. W. (*Salop*
Kerr, John
Laurie, Lieut.-General
Law, Andrew Bonar (*Glasgow*
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leveson-Gower, Frederick N. S.
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Long, Col. Chas. W. (*Evesham*
Long, Rt. Hn. W. (*Bristol, S.*
Lowther, Rt. Hon. Jas. (*Kent*)
Lucas, Col. Francis (*Lowestoft*)
Lucas, Reginald J. (*Portsmouth*
Lundon, W.
Macdona, John Cumming
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
M'Iver Sir Lewis (*Edinburgh, W*
M'Killop, Jas. (*Stirlingshire*)
M'Killop, W. (*Sligo, North*)
Meysey-Thompson, Sir H. M.
Milvain, Thomas
Mooney, John J.
Mowbray, Sir Robert Gray C.
Murphy, John
Myers, William Henry
Nolan, Col. John P. (*Galway N.*
O'Kelly, J. (*Roscommon, N.*)
O'Malley, William
Pease, H. Pike (*Darlington*)
Peel, Hn. Wm. Robert Wellesley
Pilkington, Colonel Richard
Plummer, Walter R.
Pretyman, Ernest George
Randles, John S.
Rasch' Major Federic Carne
Redmond, Jn. E. (*Waterford*)
Redmond, William (*Clare*)
Reid, James (*Greenock*)
Renshaw, Sir Charles Bine
Ritchie, Rt. Hn. Chas. Thomson
Robertson, Herbert (*Hackney*)
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Rutherford, John (*Lancashire*)
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford-
Seely, Maj. J. E. B. (*Isle of Wight*
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Simeon, Sir Barrington
Smith, Abel H. (*Hertford East*
Smith, James Parker (*Lanarks*
Smith, Hn. W. F. D. (*Strand*)
Spear, John Ward
Stanley, Lord (*Lancs.*)
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Sullivan, Donal
Taylor, Austin (*East Toxteth*)
Tollemache, Henry James
Valentia, Viscount
Walrond, Rt. Hn. Sir William H.
Webb, Colonel William George
William, Rt Hn J Powell- (*Birm.*
Wilson John (*Glasgow*)
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Worsley-Taylor, Henry Wilson
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-
Young, Samuel

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Mr. Anstruther.

Mr. A. J. Balfour.

NOES.

Barran, Rowland Hirst
Black, Alexander William
Brigg, John
Brunner, Sir John Tomlinson
Bryce, Right Hon. James
Burns, John
Burt, Thomas
Buxton, Sydney Charles
Caldwell, James
Cameron, Robert
Channing, Francis Allston
Corbett, T. L. (*Down, North*)
Cremer, William Randal
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, M. Vaughan-(*Cardigan*
Dewar, John A. (*Inverness-sh.*)
Dilke, Rt. Hn. Sir Charles
Duncan J. Hastings
Ellis, John Edward
Fenwick, Charles
Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmund
Foster, Sir Michael (*Lond. Univ.*
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Hardie, J. Keir (*Merthyr Tydvil*
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Chas. Seale-
Hayter, Rt. Hon. Sir Arthur D.
Hemphill, Rt. Hon. Chas. H.
Hope, John Deans (*Fife West*)
Humphreys-Owen, Arthur C.
Hutchinson, Dr. Charles Fredk.
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jones, David Brynmor (*Swansea*
Jones, Wm. (*Carnarvonshire*)
Langley, Batty
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (*Cornwall*
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leng, Sir John
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, David
Lough, Thomas
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
M'Crae, George
M'Kenna, Reginald
Mansfield, Horace Rendall
Markham, Arthur Basil
Mitchell, Edw. (*Fermanagh N.*
Partington, Oswald
Paulton, James Mellor
Pirie, Duncan V.
Priestley, Arthur
Rea, Russell
Robertson, Edmund (*Dundee*)
Russell, T. W.
Samuel, Herbt. L. (*Cleveland*)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Strachey, Sir Edward
Taylor, Theodore C. (*Radcliffe*)
Thomas, Sir A. (*Glam., E.*)
Thomas, David Alfred (*Merthyr*
Tomkinson, James
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Wallace, Robert
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Wason, E. (*Clackmannan*)
Wason, John Cathcart (*Orkney*
Weir, James Galloway
White, George (*Norfolk*)
White, Luke (*York, E. R.*)
Whitley, J. H. (*Halifax*)
Williams, Osmond (*Merioneth*)
Wilson, John (*Falkirk*)
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Herbert Gladstone and Mr. John Sinclair.

DR. MACNAMARA had the following Amendment on the Notice Paper—

> "In Clause 1, page 1, line 6, after 'shall,' insert 'except as respects non-provided schools.'"

MR. SPEAKER said this Amendment was in the same position as those which he had already ruled out of order.

DR. MACNAMARA asked whether he would have an opportunity of raising the question on the schedule.

MR. SPEAKER: I will not give a precise definition now as to whether it will be in order on the schedule or not, but it may be capable of discussion on the schedule.

DR. MACNAMARA had also the following Amendment on the Notice Paper—

> "In Clause 1, page 1, line 7, at end, add 'Provided that all public elementary voluntary schools within the area shall be maintained by the local education authority as if they were provided schools, provided that the local education authority shall by agreement rent the school premises from the trustees, free use of the premises being granted to the denominations under whose auspices the schools have hitherto been conducted for purposes of denominational religious teaching outside the ordinary hours of the school time-table to the children of such parents as make written application for the same. If any question arises under this section between the local education authority and the managers of a school not provided by the authority in respect to the use and rental of the premises the matter shall be determined by the Board of Education.'"

MR. SPEAKER said this Amendment was also out of order.

MR. ALBAN GIBBS (London) moved an Amendment with the object of excluding the City of London from the scope of the Bill. He did not know whether he should have the approval of the Government in reference to this proposal, but he really thought it was one that might be accepted. The City of London had always been an authority by itself. It had always been treated as a county by itself for most purposes. If it was not so treated under the Elementary Education Act it was given a large representation on the School Board—he thought it was one-twelfth of the whole—to compensate for its not being separately treated. At present there was no special representation of the City of London provided for on the Committee. He appealed to the Government to consider the question with a view to something being done in the way of giving effect to his proposal. He begged to move.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

> "In page 1, line 7, at end, to add the words, 'and for the purposes of such application the

City of London shall be a County, and the mayor, aldermen, and commons of that City in common council assembled shall be a County Council.'"—(*Mr. Alban Gibbs.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted in the Bill."

*THE PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION (Sir WILLIAM ANSON, Oxford University) said he fully recognised the valuable work that had been done for education by the City of London, and the great position which the City had occupied in the higher education of the country. But he thought the hon. Member would see that there were almost insuperable difficulties in taking the City out of the general purview of this Bill. The City had been one of the School Board areas and it had not been in any way differentiated from other parts of the Metropolis. The same had been the case under the Technical Education Act. It had fallen in with the work of the Technical Instruction Committee of the London County Council and had not asked for different treatment under that Act. He thought the difficulty of taking the City out of the Bill in the matter of elementary education was even more apparent. Under those circumstances to take the City outside the Bill and make it an educational authority by itself would be a new departure, having regard to the Elementary Education Act and the Technical Instruction Act. It would not only be a new departure, but a new departure not justified by the educational situation in the City. The number of children educated in the elementary schools of the City was small, while the great secondary schools in which the City was interested were wholly outside the Act. He hoped his hon. friend would recognise that there was no reason for treating the City in this special manner, and that what was proposed did not arise from any want of appreciation of the educational work done by the City.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE (Carnarvon Boroughs) said he would like to call attention to the remarkable fact that a representative of the City had put down an Amendment of this character. The representatives of the City had supported the Bill throughout, and immediately that was done, in order to show the extent to which they appreciated this legislation, they proposed that the City of London should be excepted altogether from the provisions of the Act. This demonstrated clearly that really the Act had no real supporter in any part of the House of Commons. He trusted that the hon. Member would proceed to a division.

MR. ALBAN GIBBS: I beg to withdraw the Amendment.

MR. LOUGH expressed the hope that the hon. Member would not withdraw the Amendment. The representatives of the City were acting on the unanimous request of the Common Council of the City of London. The Common Council examined the Bill and took exception to its provisions just as hon. Members did on this side of the House. The Amendment was really a very important one, because even hon. Members on this side of the House who did not agree politically with the Common Council knew that every representative body throughout London viewed the Bill with horror and alarm. (Cries of "No, no.") Therefore the hon. Member was only doing his duty in proposing the Amendment. He wished that the hon. Member moved against the Bill from the same righteous motives that animated the opponents of the Bill on this side of the House. The hon. Member did not desire to see it applied to the City of London in order to preserve the autonomy of the City, but he did not object to the Bill itself. He ventured to say that that was a narrow ground on which to claim the exception of the City from the Bill. He himself and others on this side thought the Bill was very bad and unsuited to every part of London. London had got a peculiar system of local government, quite different from other places to which the Bill had been applied. The City, whatever faults it might have, had an honourable educational record, and it had been shamefully treated by the Government in the proposals in this Bill. The City did not come to the Government and say. "Give us representation and control." The Government thrust power and honour on the City Council in the Bill as first introduced, and then suddenly, for no reason that had been explained to the House, the City was struck out of that representation. This was a matter very well worth discussing from the standpoint of the Government. The House had had no justification whatever from the Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Education for the new treatment they were giving to the authorities which were to be represented. The precise authority which would be left to the City Council was embodied in Clause 2, and he thought that the humble duties left to them might well give rise to the contempt of hon. Members opposite. Although the Amendment was one which he could not himself support he was a little surprised that the hon. Member's colleague in the representation of the City of London was not here to support it.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON (Tower Hamlets, Poplar) said he thought the point his hon. friends behind him had raised was well worthy of the consideration of the House at this stage of the Bill. There were in London two great municipal bodies. One was the Corporation of the City of London and the other the County Council. The Government proposed to municipalise education in London as they had done in the country districts. In the country districts the matter was a comparatively small one. The population there was something like one-tenth of what it was in London, and therefore the question ought to have been treated from a different point of view. What did they find? The County Council was made the central body, though they said they did not see their way to carry out the work. He would ask the hon. Member what he proposed to do supposing the County Council found themselves unable or unwilling to carry out the provisions of the Act. He believed that was a position which would be arrived at before very long. Then the City of London had declared that they did not desire the Bill either, and that they wished to be outside its provisions altogether. He was surprised that his hon. friend representing the City had made such an uncommonly bad case for the City. He thought it was unbecoming the dignity of the City that one of its members should come down here and move an Amendment and then allow it to be negatived without a division, and indeed without debate. This Bill was obviously, so far as London was concerned, incompatible with our municipal system. The City of London and the County Council rejected it, and under those circumstances he should have thought that it was the duty of the Government to reconsider their position and withdraw the Bill.

*DR. MACNAMARA said he considered this Bill from the machinery point of view a thoroughly bad Bill. They could not municipalise education in a great area like that of London. Good or bad, however, whatever this new Bill might be, the City of London was not coming out of it. For financial reasons the City of London had got to make a contribution to the education of the children of London as a whole. The City of London had always been wanting to be struck out of the Bill, partly because it had not the representation it wanted, and partly because of finance. The London School Board had memorials from the City, week by week, complaining against the cost of education. What was the position? They had 2,000 working class children and they paid an Education Rate of 1s. in the £, which amounted altogether to £200,000 a year. That was £100 per child. But it did not really cost £100 to educate each child; it cost only £5; and therefore the City paid £95 each for educating nineteen children in Camberwell. The City ought to rejoice in being able to carry out the Apostolic injunction that they should bear one another's burdens. The City had got to pay the unified rate of 1s. in the £, or £95 out of every £100 for the education of children in every part of London—children whose forebears originally lived in the City. What would happen if this proposal were carried? The City of London would have to spend £10,000 a year to educate 2,000 working class children, and even supposing they voted £10,000 additional for secondary education, that would only amount to a rate of $\frac{3}{4}$d. in the £. He was bound to insist that whatever the machinery of the Bill might finally be the City had got to stay in it.

*MR. COHEN (Islington, E) said that there was a well-known maxim in the House of Commons, that it was better to avoid attributing motives. Was there any reason why that almost sacred maxim against attributing motives, which were sometimes charitable and sometimes less benevolent, should not be respected in the case of the action of his hon. friend in behalf of the City of London. He could assure his hon. friend opposite that though he had not the honour of representing the City he knew something about the City where he was born and had passed the greatest portion of his life, and that the spirit which prompted the Amendment of his hon. friend was as far as possible removed from that which the hon. Gentleman thought ruled it. If there were any part of London where one should have been less disposed to attribute a sordid motive to any proposition that emanated from its representative, it should have been the City of London, which was the fountain of all benevolence. [OPPOSITION ironical laughter.] Hon. Members sneered rather derisively, but they did not abstain from having recourse to the Mansion House when they desired to appeal to the benevolence of the whole Empire. It should be remembered that the City had secured the freedom of Epping Forest and had built the Tower Bridge. Therefore his hon. friend might have been less ready to attribute unworthy motives to this Amendment than he had done. The City of London objected to being included in the operation of this Bill, not at all because of the reasons which were incorrectly, and, he thought, rather unworthily, attributed by his hon. friend opposite, but simply because they carried on education of their own in a most admirable way, which did not involve any expenditure on the part of the ratepayers of the other parts of London, and because they had no representation in the administration of those large funds which they contributed. Therefore, they were abundantly justified in proposing this Amendment, and if his hon. friend went to a division he would most cordially support it.

MR. BRYCE said he agreed with the hon. Gentleman that the habit of attributing motives was one inconsistent with Christian charity, but the counsel of perfection he recommended, if acted upon, would reduce the debates in the House to very slender dimensions indeed. He assumed that the motives of the City of London were admirable, and free from all suspicion, but there was another Amendment lower down on the Paper which was to him a wonder, viz.—

> "And for the purpose of such application the City of London shall be a county, and the Mayor, Aldermen, and Commons of that City in Common Council assembled shall be a County Council."

He would have thought that if there was a name which the City Corporation would have been unwilling to adopt—a name which had been held in repulsion and in contempt—it would have been that of County Council. But here they had one of the Members for the City coming forth and proposing that the City Corporation, which had an existence of over seven centuries, should be reduced to the level of that mushroom creation known as the County Council! It was his respect for the City, his veneration for the City, his admiration for the glorious traditions of the City, that would prevent him from voting for any such Amendment.

Question put, and negatived.

MR. LOUGH said that most of the questions which had been raised in regard to the second clause of the Bill which he proposed to omit would be raised again on the schedule. He asked the Government whether they would not get rid of all the difficulties which had arisen by abolishing Clause 2 altogether. He did not believe that any mortal man knew why Clause 2 existed in its present shape. When the Bill was first introduced there was a scheme in the minds of the Government which justified such a clause. The idea then was to give the municipal authorities scattered all over London full control over the education authority that was to be set up. But they got rid of Clause 2 and began to attack Clause 3, which corresponded with the existing Clause 2. Some hon. Gentlemen who might have some veneration for the ancient City Corporation and the other bodies might consider whether Clause 2 should remain. But there was no precedent for it in the Act of 1902. It was simply a fraudulent pretext kept in the Bill by the Government to make these bodies imagine that they had got some resemblance of power when it was actually all taken away from them. The Government had in the debates in Committee to give way, and at last they concluded to abandon all the splendid powers which they had given to the Borough Councils of appointing the teachers, the taking of sites, and the vague powers of management. Now they had got a clause which allowed the Borough Councils to appoint managers although they had no duty of management. How could the Borough Councils tell what size the body of managers ought to be, for they had no kind of information on the subject. The present shape of the clause was perfectly ridiculous—so ridiculous that the Government themselves had put down one or two Amendments in regard to it. No good whatever would be obtained by retaining Clause 2. It would be a constant interference with the quiet working of the Act. He begged to move that Clause 2 be omitted from the Bill.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 1, line 8, to leave out Clause 2."—(*Mr. Lough.*)

Question proposed, "That the words of Clause 2, to the word 'provided' in line 8, stand part of the Bill."

MR. WHITLEY (Halifax) said that the House ought to have some sort of statement from the Government as to what was their final intention in regard to this question of management. They had had so many changes on this clause at previous stages of the Bill—and now the Government themselves were about to propose other Amendments—that really the House ought to have a clear statement whether the Government intended to proceed with this fantastic method of management by the Borough Councils under the County Council. This clause still left to the minor authorities certain powers which were likely to lead to friction with the superior authorities, and he was amazed that the Government should propose that the House should go to a division on this Motion without showing the faintest signs of telling the House whether they had any policy on this matter.

*SIR WILLIAM ANSON said he really thought that it was hardly necessary to explain why the Government desired his clause to stand part of the Bill, not wholly in its present form, because an Amendment was accepted in Committee which it would have been somewhat rash to endeavour to put into final shape in the Committee in the circumstances of the debate, and which must therefore be amended now. The Amendment which had been put down by his hon. friend the Member for South Manchester would come up for consideration in due course. The policy of the clause was perfectly clear. From the very first the Government desired to associate Borough Councils with the education of London. It was thought that by giving them powers of management they would be able to excite more local interest in the elementary education of London, and that this would be done without diminishing the efficient working of the machinery which would be dealing with the general education of London. In that way he had confidently hoped that they would do a good deal for elementary education. In the debates which had taken place it became clear that the House did not desire to see statutory powers conferred upon Borough Councils, but nevertheless the Government did desire to see the Borough Councils take some definite part in the elementary education of London, and for that reason they would proceed with this clause. He reminded the House that what was left to the boroughs was to take part and initiate arrangements for the building of schools, to determine the number of managers, and to choose the managers up to a certain number. His hon. friend had various Amendments on the Paper, one of which was an Amendment of substance which, on behalf of the Government, he should be prepared to accept and which would diminish this perpetual fear of friction. It was an Amendment providing that these arrangements should be made after consultation with the local authority. He did not think anything would be lost by bringing together the various local authorities in the common work of the education of the children. On the contrary he believed that great good would come from it, and that under the conditions which this clause laid down these local authorities would work together in a friendly manner, and if the boroughs should not take the initiative there would be a residuary power in the County Council to do what was necessary for the management of the schools. He did not wish to go further into the subject, because they would have to discuss this clause upon the various Amendments on the Paper. He wished, however, to impress upon the House that the Government had no intention whatever of departing from the desire with which they originally embarked on this clause, namely, to associate the boroughs with the education of London.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON said it was very surprising that the hon. Gentleman had not given some information to the House in regard to this matter. This clause had not been remodelled once or twice, but four or five times, and the hon. Baronet had now told them that he was prepared to accept other Amendments which would entirely alter the clause. Surely his hon. friend was entitled to ask for further information. The onus of proof in this matter lay upon the Secretary to the Board of Education when he departed from the Act of last year. This Bill was absolutely irreconcilable with the Bill of last year when it was introduced, but the common sense of the House had licked it into shape on the lines of the Act of last year. The only difference which was left was that if this clause disappeared and the Bill proceeded upon the lines of the Act of last year, the local education authority would have the nomination of four, and the Borough Councils two, managers. The hon. Gentleman proposed that the Borough Councils should have three-fourths and the education authority only one-fourth of the nominations. Therefore, it remained to the Secretary to the Board of Education to prove that that would work better than the proposal of the Act of last year. He should like to know why the Government had altered their mind in regard to this matter? When they were discussing this question in Committee he ventured to quote a paragraph from a speech made by the Prime Minister, who was then in charge of the Bill of last year, in which the right hon. Gentleman gave a totally different idea as to what ought to be the rights of the case. It was very important that they should have the Government speaking with one voice upon this question, and he would read the words of the Prime Minister.

MR. SPEAKER: There will be later on Amendments raising this very point, and therefore I do not think it will be in order to discuss this question upon the Motion before the House.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON said the hon. Baronet had given them no argument in favour of this proposal. He said the idea was that there should be a link between the Borough Councils and the County Council, but in his opinion this clause would be the one source of friction in the Bill between the local and minor authorities. In order to avoid that they wished to make the Education Committee the supreme authority, and therefore they desired that this remaining shred of authority which was now given to the Borough Councils should disappear. He had no desire to cast any aspersions upon the Borough Councils, but he thought the Government had put them in a most humiliating position. The Government gave the Borough Councils these very large powers which they never asked for and then took them all away. In regard to this particular clause he hoped the Government would reconsider the matter so that they might have the Act of last year applied to this scheme in London from the top to the bottom.

SIR JOHN GORST (Cambridge University) said he did not wish to represent this clause as one which would do a great deal of good, but he did not think it would do a great deal of harm. It was a clause which related entirely to provided schools, that was, schools of the education authority, and did not touch on the burning question of voluntary schools. The action of the House of Commons in regard to these schools had throughout been rather strange. One would have thought that the most successful course would have been to have left the local authority to settle the very simple matter of how its schools should be managed, especially as they had before them the example of the London School Board, which, whatever its shortcomings might have been in this respect, had established a very good system of management for the schools. The House of Commons, in its wisdom, thought that they should settle how many managers there ought to be for a provided school, and they settled last year that there should be six managers for every provided school all over the country, no more and no less. There was a sort of provision that the number might be varied, but it was fixed at this by the House. In one respect this was better than the Bill of last year because it did allow variety, and it did not require six managers in every school, but the number was to be adapted to the wants and peculiarities of the schools. Then there was a most extraordinary freak—freak he really must call it. Instead of the local education authority determining how many managers there should be it brought in an entirely foreign body which had nothing to do with it, which had to decide the matter, a body which had had no educational experience, which was not elected for the purposes of education, and which had this entirely extraneous and strange duty thrust upon it which it never had before. The Common Council of the City of London was a body for whom he had the most profound veneration, but this House had decided that it should be engaged in the duty of determining how many managers there ought to be for the few elementary schools in the City of London, which were the schools of the London County Council, and which were managed by it and controlled by it in every respect. Therefore it seemed to him that they had chosen the worst body in the world to determine this matter. Practically, although the power was given to the Borough Councils it would be exercised by the consent and approbation of the County Council, therefore this clause, if accepted, would do no harm, because after all the County Council would be supreme over the schools. In order to make the Bill work well they would have to secure that these managers, however fantastic the manner of their appointment was, should be people who really had the confidence and trust of the County Council. He believed, however, the managers when they were appointed would work cordially with the local authority for London, and they would have a body responsible to the local authority and in consonance with the local authority.

*Mr. WHITMORE (Chelsea) said the right hon. Member for the Cambridge University had made a characteristic speech, in which he had used every argument against the vote he intended to give. For himself, he sincerely hoped this Amendment would not be included in the Bill. He held this view although he was most anxious that the education authority should have full powers, and that there should be no just cause of friction between the education authority and the Borough Councils. He did not wish to pledge himself to this proportion of managers being appointed by the education authority and that by the boroughs; but, he asked, would it not tend to the efficiency of the education of London if the Borough Councils had some voice in the appointment of the managers? The total number of managers would be very large, and the appointment of managers for all the districts of London was a delicate and difficult duty to impose on the County Council. He was convinced it would be wise to allow Borough Councils to have a large voice in the appointments, as they would be able to assist the education authority by their own local knowledge. It was a good thing to give some interest to the boroughs, partly for educational and partly for administrative reasons. He had done all in his power to make the County Council the education authority, but he thought it would be a pity if the House accepted the Amendment. He hoped the Government would adhere to the clause.

Dr. MACNAMARA said he did not think there was much in this Amendment, and expressed the opinion that the Borough Councils would not thank the House for taking this course. This was part of an ambitious scheme which the hon. Gentleman was responsible for in the first instance. The very last word of the Government was that the Borough Councils were to come in, and then, for some mysterious reason, the hon. Gentleman was compelled to stand up and say, "Very well, we throw them over." He felt very sorry for the hon. Baronet, and equally sorry for the Borough Councils, because the way the Government had treated them in connection with Clause 2 was simply abominable, and if he were a member of a Borough Council he should feel the greatest contempt for the Government in this matter. In Clause 2 the Government first gave the Borough Councils thirty-two seats, then twelve, then eleven, and finally no seats whatever. Then they were to have the appointment of the managers, now they were to have the appointment of three-fourths. He thought such a suggestion was absolutely impracticable and entirely useless. He thought it would be better if Clause 2 were dropped altogether. What would happen in that case? The present boards of managers would go on, and when vacancies occurred the local education authority would be asked to fill them up, and they would no doubt consult the Borough Councils, but it would be left entirely in the hands of the local education authority. That was the only fair course to pursue.

Mr. LLOYD-GEORGE said he must express his surprise that the hon. Baronet would not drop this clause. Why should any distinction be drawn between the London County Council and the other County Councils of the country? There were no general or managerial reasons for it. The reasons for it were political. He challenged hon. Gentlemen opposite to point out a single reason that was not political. If experience had taught the hon. Baronet that he could trust the County Councils throughout England and Wales, why should he not trust the London County Council in this matter? It was this sort of sulky distrust of the London County Council which had marred the whole of London government. It was said that they had 2,000 managers to appoint, but even so it was easier to select 2,000 managers in a small area within four miles of the central office than for a country County Council to select 1,000 over a wider area. Why should not the London County Council be trusted? Was it really because its political complexion was not such as commended itself to the Government? If so, that was a very poor reason when legislating for all time. Nothing could be worse for the management of education than this divided control. County Councils, Borough Councils, managers and trustees—all had a finger in the pie, but none had supreme authority. The County Council was supposed to control, while the Borough Councils appointed the managers. What was the distinction between control and management? The two bodies would be in constant conflict, to the detriment of London education. The selection of sites might be taken as an example. Owing to a dispute between the Vestry, the Board of Education, and the School Board, Streatham went without a school for years. By this clause the Government would perpetuate difficulties of that kind. It was perfectly ludicrous, when boroughs of 10,000 inhabitants were trusted in this matter, that a council representing 5,000,000 people should be treated with so much suspicion. Nothing was to be gained by the clause; it would not give the Borough Councils either dignity or power; it would simply enable them to interfere and make themselves a nuisance. He hoped that even now the Government would reconsider their decision and drop the clause.

Mr. YOXALL (Nottingham, W.) thought the hon. Baronet and the House hardly realised what actually was at issue in this matter. The debate had proceeded on the assumption that the only matter involved was, who should appoint 2,000 private persons to sit in groups and manage, under the London County Council Education Committee, either single schools or small groups of schools, the inference being that such persons would take their instructions from and act according to the will of the County Council. But that did not by any means represent all that was involved. The clause would enable a Borough Council to determine that all the provided schools within its area should be managed by one large Committee, upon which it would have three-fourths of the representation, thus setting up a sort of School Board for the whole district. What would then happen? If a sufficient motive were given, a degree of friction amounting to positive warfare would arise between the Management Committee and the Education Committee of the County Council. The motive for refusing to obey the behests of the County Council already existed in the fact that the Borough Councils were not satisfied with the course the Government had taken, so that the danger to which he referred was a very real one. He appealed to the Government to remove the possibility of that danger; the clause satisfied nobody, and he hoped it would be dropped.

MR. BOND (Nottingham, E.) said that although he agreed as to the undesirability of retaining this provision he would be unable to vote for the Amendment, because he thought that London stood in a somewhat different position from the County Councils under the Act of 1902, and that special machinery was required to deal adequately with the important question of how the bodies of managers in London should be constituted. There were no minor authorities in the Metropolis similar to those contemplated by the Act of 1902. He thought the better course would be to discuss the clause and see how far it could be modified and made suitable to the needs of London. He hoped the Borough Councils would eventually be eliminated from the clause; otherwise it might be a source of considerable friction.

MR. GEORGE WHITE (Norfolk, N. W.) said that if the hon. Member for West Nottingham was correct in the view he had put forward, this clause involved a danger which had not been anticipated. A large Committee managing all the schools within the area was a very different body from a body of managers concerned with only two or three schools, and if such a body set itself up in opposition to the will of the Council great danger might ensue. If managers found they were to be merely nominal they would not act, while if they were to be more than nominal they would in many instances come into collision with the local authority. He would be more content if a majority were appointed by the local authority, as its will might then be carried out, but that was not the case. Nothing gave rise to more disputes than the selection of sites. All sorts of interests were opposed to the educational authority, and he could conceive nothing more dangerous than to allow the Borough Council to have any practical vote, or even a delaying power, in this matter. A variety of objections might be raised to the selection of a particular site; and the members of the Borough Councils might be induced to act in a manner which would cause great friction. Further, the Borough Councils would not know the educational needs of the locality as well as the education authority. Speaking from a lengthened experience as regarded the selection of sites, he thought this power should not be given to the Borough Councils. If it were given to them it would be certain to be a hindrance to the work of education rather than a help.

MR. BRYCE said that he thought it might fairly be said that the balance of opinion and argument was against the Borough Councils having anything to do with the matter. That was strongly felt in Committee, and the large proposals originally made as regarded the Borough Councils had been whittled down until only this power remained. The Government had set an ample feast for the Borough Councils, but one dish after another was whisked away until there were only a few crumbs left. There was no reason to believe that the Borough Councils wanted this power. There had not been, either in Committee or on Report, any possible reason of an educational kind given to show that this work could be better carried out by the Borough Councils than by the education authority. He had heard a great deal about its being interesting to associate the Borough Councils with the work of education. That might be all very well for the Borough Councils, and if this were a Bill to improve the Borough

Councils he could understand the argument. But it was a Bill for education, and he did not think any argument had been advanced to show that the work of education would be better for the interposition of the Borough Councils. It was not suggested that they possessed any greater knowledge or experience than the School Board now had; and that the local education authority would have in the future. The hon. Member for Chelsea called attention to the magnitude of the task of appointing 2,000 managers. But the School Board now appointed managers all over London, and had their finger on every part of the Metropolis. The local education authority would also have their finger on every part of London through their members, who would be able to suggest suitable managers. It was not suggested that the present managers were inferior. The only criticism ever made on the School Board was that it had not power enough. That, however, was a criticism which could be remedied by the new education authority. The onus of proof lay with hon. Members, who proposed that the Borough Councils should be brought into a work for which they were not created, and in which they had no experience. The House had not been given any satisfactory reason why this clause should be passed; and the best way would be to get rid of it altogether. The London County Council was only a County Council in name. It was really the council of a gigantic borough, and the principles of the Act of 1902 were applicable. Therefore, there was not the slightest occasion to bring in any subordinate authority whatever. No argument having been given for introducing the Borough Councils, he felt himself bound to vote with his hon. friend.

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 226; Noes, 111. (Division List No. 157.)

AYES.

Abraham, William (*Cork, N.E.*)
Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Aird, Sir John
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Aubrey-Fletcher, Rt. Hn. Sir H.
Bagot, Capt. Josceline FitzRoy
Bailey, James (*Walworth*)
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Baird, John George Alexander
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (*Manch'r*
Balfour, Capt. C. B. (*Hornsey*
Balfour, Rt. Hn. G. W. (*Leeds*
Balfour, Kenneth R. (*Christch.*
Bathurst, Hon. Allen Benj.
Beach, Rt. Hon. Sir M. Hicks
Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Boland, John
Bond, Edward
Bowles, Lt.-Col. HF (*Middlesex*
Brassey, Albert
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Bull, William James
Campbell, Rt. Hn. J. A (*Glasgow*
Campbell, John (*Armagh, S.*)
Carson, Rt. Hn. Sir Edw. H.
Cavendish. V C W (*Derbysh.*)
Cecil, Evelyn (*Aston Manor*)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (*Greenwich*)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hn. J. (*Birm.*)
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Clive, Captain Percy A.
Cochrane, Hon. T. H. A. E.
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Collings, Right Hon. Jesse
Colomb, Sir John Chas. Ready
Colston, Chas. Edw. H. Athole
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Cox, Irwin Edwd. Bainbridge
Cranborne, Viscount
Cross, Herb. Shepherd (*Bolton*)
Crossley, Rt. Hon. Sir Saville
Cullinan, J.
Delany, William
Denny, Colonel
Devlin, Joseph (*Kilkenny, N.*)
Dewar, Sir T. R. (*Tr. Haml'ts*
Digby, John K. D. Wingfield-
Dimsdale, Rt. Hon. Sir Jos. C.
Dixon-Hartland, Sir Fred Dixon
Donelan, Captain A.
Doogan, P. C.
Dorington, Rt. Hon. Sir J. E.
Doughty, George
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers
Egerton, Hon. A. de Tatton
Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Faber, E. B. (*Hants, W.*)
Faber, George Denison (*York*)
Fardell, Sir T. George
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Ed.
Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
FitzGerald, Sir Robt. Penrose-
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Flower, Ernest
Forster, Henry William
Foster, P. S. (*Warwick, S.W.*
Fyler, John Arthur
Galloway, William Johnson
Garfit, William
Gibbs, Hn. A. G. H. (*City of Lond.*
Gibbs, Hon. Vicary (*St. Albans*)
Gilhooly, James
Godson, Sir Augustus Frederick
Gore, Hn G. R. C. Ormsby-(*Salop*
Gore, Hn. S. F. Ormsby-(*Linc.*)
Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
Goschen, Hon. George Joachim
Gray, Ernest (*West Ham*)
Gretton, John
Groves, James Grimble
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Gunter, Sir Robert
Guthrie, Walter Murray
Halsey, Rt. Hon. Thomas F.
Hardy, Laurence (*Kent, Ashfd*
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Haslam, Sir Alfred S.
Hatch, Ernest Frederick Geo.
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Hayden, John Patrick
Heath James (*Staffords, N.W*
Hickman, Sir Alfred
Hogg, Lindsay
Hornby, Sir William Henry
Hoult. Joseph
Houldsworth, Sir Wm. Henry
Howard, Jno (*Kent, Faver'hm*
Howard, J. (*Midd. Tottenham*)
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Jebb. Sir Richard Claverhouse
Jeffreys, Rt. Hon. Arthur Fred.

Jessel, Capt. Herbert Merton
Kemp, Lieut.-Colonel George
Kennedy, Patrick James
Kenyon-Slaney, Col. W. (*Salop*
Kerr, John
Knowles, Lees
Lambton, Hon. Fredk. Wm.
Laurie, Lieut.-General
Law, Andrew Bonar (*Glasgow*)
Lawrence, Wm. F. (*Liverpool*
Lawson, John Grant
Lees, Sir Elliott (*Birkenhead*)
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leveson-Gower, Frederick N. S.
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Long, Col. Charles W. (*Evesham*
Long, Rt Hon. Walter (*Bristol, S*
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lowther, C. (*Cumb., Eskdale*)
Lucas, Col. Francis (*Lowestoft*)
Lucas, Reginald J. (*Portsmouth*
Lundon, W.
Macdona, John Cumming
MacDonnell, Dr. Mark A.
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
Maconochie, A. W.
M'Iver, Sir Lewis (*Edinburgh W*
M'Killop, James (*Stirlingshire*)
M'Killop, W. (*Sligo North*)
Malcolm, Ian
Manners, Lord Cecil
Maxwell, Rt Hn Sir H. E (*Wigt'n*
Melville, Beresford Valentine
Meysey-Thompson, Sir H. M.
Milvain, Thomas
Mitchell, William (*Burnley*)
Montagu, G. (*Huntingdon*)
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
Morgan, David J (*Walthamstow*
Morgan, Hn. Fred. (*Monm'thsh.*

Morton, Arthur H. Aylmer
Mount, William Arthur
Mowbray, Sir Robert Gray C.
Murray, Charles J. (*Coventry*)
Murray, Col. Wyndham (*Bath*)
Myers, William Henry
Nolan, Col. John P. (*Galway, N.*
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, Conor (*Mayo, N.*)
O'Kelly, J. (*Roscommon, N.*)
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Pease, Herbert Pike (*Darlingt'n*
Peel, Hn. Wm Robert Wellesley
Percy, Earl
Pilkington, Colonel Richard
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Plummer, Walter R.
Pretyman, Ernest George
Purvis, Robert
Pym, C. Guy
Randles, John S.
Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
Redmond, Jn. E. (*Waterford*)
Redmond, William (*Clare*)
Reid, James (*Greenock*)
Renshaw, Sir Charles Bine
Ridley, Hon. M. W. (*Stalybridge*
Ridley, S. Forde (*Bethnal Green*
Ritchie, Rt. Hn. Chas. Thomson
Roberts, Samuel (*Sheffield*)
Robertson, H. (*Hackney*)
Rolleston, Sir John F. L.
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Rutherford, John (*Lancashire*)
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford
Sadler, Col. Samuel Alexander
Samuel, Harry S. (*Limehouse*)
Scott, Sir S. (*Marylebone, W.*)
Seely, Charles Hilton (*Lincoln*)
Seely, Maj. J. E. B. (*Isle of Wight*

Sharpe, William Edward T.
Shaw-Stewart, M. H. (*Renfrew*)
Simeon, Sir Barrington
Sinclair, Louis (*Romford*)
Smith, Abel H. (*Hertford, East*)
Smith, H. C (*North'mb. Tyneside*
Smith, James Parker (*Lanarks.*
Smith, Hn. W. F. D. (*Strand*)
Spear, John Ward
Stanley, Edw. Jas. (*Somerset*)
Stanley, Lord (*Lancs.*)
Stirling-Maxwell, Sir Jn. M.
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
Talbot, Rt. Hn. J. G. (*Oxford*
Thornton, Percy M.
Tollemache, Henry James
Tomlinson, Sir Wm. E. M.
Tufnell, Lieut.-Col. Edward
Valentia, Viscount
Walrond, Rt. Hn Sir William H.
Warde, Colonel C. E.
Webb, Colonel William George
Welby, Lt-Col. A. C. E (*Taunton*
Whiteley, H (*Ashton und. Lyne*
Whitmore, Charles Algernon
Williams, Rt Hn J Powell- (*Birm*
Wilson, A. Stanley (*York, E. R*
Wilson-Todd, Wm. H. (*Yorks.*)
Wodehouse, Rt. Hn. E. R. (*Bath*
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Worsley-Taylor, Henry Wilson
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Young, Samuel

TELLERS FOR THE AYES.—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Allen, Chas. P. (*Glos., Stroud*)
Asquith, Rt. Hon. Herbt. Hy.
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Barlow, John Emmott
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Beaumont, Wentworth C. B.
Black, Alexander William
Brigg, John
Broadhurst, Henry
Bryce, Right Hon. James
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Burt, Thomas
Buxton, Sydney Charles
Caldwell, James
Cameron, Robert
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Causton, Richard Knight
Channing, Francis Allston
Corbett, T. L. (*Down, North*)
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Crooks, William
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, M. Vaughan (*Cardigan*
Dewar, John A. (*Inverness-sh.*)
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Douglas, Charles M. (*Lanark*)
Duncan, J. Hastings
Dunn, Sir William
Elibank, Master of
Emmott, Alfred

Farquharson, Dr. Robert
Fenwick, Charles
Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmund
Foster, Sir Michl. (*Lond. Univ*
Foster, Sir Walter (*Derby Co.*)
Furness, Sir Christopher
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Chas. Seale-
Hayter, Rt. Hon. Sir Arthur D.
Holland, Sir William Henry
Hope, John Deans (*Fife, West*)
Horniman, Frederick John
Humphreys-Owen, Arthur C.
Hutchinson, Dr. Charles Fredk.
Hutton, Alfred E. (*Morley*)
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jones, David B. (*Swansea*)
Jones, Wm. (*Carnarvonshire*)
Kitson, Sir James
Langley, Batty
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (*Cornwall*
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leng, Sir John
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, David
Lough, Thomas
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
M'Crae, George
M'Kenna, Reginald
Mansfield, Horace Rendall
Mappin, Sir Fredk. Thorpe

Markham, Arthur Basil
Mellor, Rt. Hn. John William
Morgan, J. Lloyd (*Carmarthen*)
Moulton, John Fletcher
Newnes, Sir George
Palmer, Sir C. M. (*Durham*)
Partington, Oswald
Paulton, James Mellor
Pearson, Sir Weetman D.
Philipps, John Wynford
Pirie, Duncan V.
Priestley, Arthur
Rea, Russell
Reid, Sir R. Threshie (*Dumfries*)
Rickett, J. Compton
Rigg, Richard
Roberts, John H. (*Denbighs.*)
Runciman, Walter
Russell, T. W.
Samuel, Herbt. L. (*Cleveland*)
Shaw, Charles E. (*Stafford*)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair, John (*Forfarshire*)
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Soares, Ernest J.
Spencer, Rt Hn. C. R. (*Northants*
Strachey, Sir Edward
Taylor, Theodore C. (*Radcliffe*)
Thomas, A. (*Carmarthen, E.*)
Thomas, Sir A. (*Glamorgan, E.*
Thomas, David A. (*Merthyr*)

Thomas, F. Freeman-(*Hastings*
Thomson, F. W. (*York, W. R.*)
Tomkinson, James
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Tritton, Charles Ernest
Wallace, Robert
Walton, Joseph (*Barnsley*)
Warner, Thomas Courtenay, T.
Wason, E. (*Clackmannan*)
Wason, John Cathcart (*Orkney*
Weir, James Galloway
White, George (*Norfolk*)
White, Luke (*York, E. R.*)
Whiteley, George (*York, W.R.*
Whitley, J. H. (*Halifax*)
Williams, Osmond (*Merioneth*)
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
Mr. Herbert Gladstone and
Mr. William M'Arthur.

MR. PEEL (Manchester, S.) moved to insert in line 8, after "elementary," the word "schools." He thought it would make it clearer to the House if he read that portion of the clause in the way he wished to amend it. It would run as follows—

> "All public elementary schools provided by the local education authority within the area of any metropolitan borough shall have a body of managers, the number of those managers and the manner in which schools, in cases where it is desirable, should be grouped under one body of managers, or placed under more than one body of managers, shall be determined by the council of each borough after consultation with the local education authority, and subject to the approval of the Board of Education."

The House would see that this Amendment was the first of two or three Amendments which were of the nature of drafting Amendments. He wanted to make it perfectly clear that in certain cases two or more schools could be grouped under one body of managers; that in other cases—and he had no doubt there were many, because owing to the large number of children in some of these schools it would not be possible to group them—each school would have a separate body of managers; and that in some cases there would be liberty for some schools to have more than one body of managers. The substantial Amendment which he wished to introduce was in the words, "after consultation with the local authority." Under the clause as it stood the duty of settling the number of managers and the way in which the schools were to be grouped was to rest with the Borough Councils. But as the whole duty of education had been cast upon the London County Council he thought it might be better, both with a view to further delegation of authority to managers and the smooth working of the Bill, that the local education authority should be called in for consultation and should have something to say as to the manner in which these schools should be grouped, and the number of managers that should be placed on the Board of management. Thus, although the initiative would come from the Borough Councils themselves, he thought it should be possible for the local authority to make any suggestion it might like, and that the constitution of the Board should be arranged between them subject to the approval of the Board of Education. They ought then to be able to arrive at some agreement which would satisfy all parties, and which would not at the same time take away from the Borough Councils the power of having an interest in the education of London. He thought it was essential that the local education authority should have some power under the statute of intervening and saying what its opinion was as to the managing body, the grouping of schools, and the number of managers on these particular boards. That was the only substantial alteration that he wished to make in that portion of the clause, and if he might be allowed to do so he should like to move all those Amendments together. (Cries of "No.")

MR. SPEAKER: We must take them in the order in which they appear on the Paper.

MR. PEEL: I beg to move the first Amendment

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

> "In page 1, line 8, after the word 'elementary,' to insert the word 'schools.'"—(*Mr. Peel.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'schools' be there inserted in the Bill."

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON said he did not know how far the acceptance of this Amendment might commit them to the acceptance of other Amendments. He thought the hon. Baronet representing the Government would have risen now to discuss the main question. He asked whether it was to be discussed on this Amendment or the subsequent ones.

MR. BRYCE said this was a drafting Amendment which was quite independent, and, therefore, by accepting it they were not by any means committed to the further Amendments.

Question put, and agreed to.

MR. MANSFIELD (Lincolnshire, Spalding) moved to leave out the words "provided schools" in the first line of the clause. This raised the whole broad question whether provided and non-provided schools in the Metropolis should be managed under one management and on the same basis. He knew it would be said that under the Act of last year a distinction was made, but that was a distinction which had not been successful, and the friction in the country had been very largely due to the fact that there had been such a distinction made, and that all the schools under educational authorities had not been put on the same basis. If the Government really wished that Act, as applied to London, to be a success, he thought they would very readily accept his Amendment. Hon. Members on the other side had not been slow to bear tribute to the fact that the County Council had behaved well to the denominational schools in London. If that was so, the denominational schools might well leave themselves in the hands of the County Council in future, and let them have one system of management throughout the whole area, whether relating to one set of schools or another. The education authority was charged with the responsibility for all secular education, and, being so charged, they ought to have the power of management in all the schools. Of course it would be urged that the trust deeds were such that the managers should be appointed by the trust. It would also be urged that the religious atmosphere must be maintained in the schools, and that the schools having been built for all time, the denomination should have the control of the management. As he understood the Prime Minister, that right hon. Gentleman considered that these matters were of very small importance; that they should be considered from an educational standpoint. The Prime Minister also lamented that they on that side of the House had introduced sectarianism into those debates, and that they had not approached the subject from a purely educational point of view. The Prime Minister also calmly claimed that there was a monopoly on the Government side of the House in regarding this subject from a purely educational point of view. Well, as the right hon. Gentleman was so anxious to approach this subject from a purely educational point of view—an anxiety shown by his absence from the House—he asked the Government whether it would not be better to have one authority, one management, to have control of the schools under their supervision? During the past week a case had arisen which gave point to his Amendment. In a school which came under the control of the managers so appointed, a curate was giving denominational teaching to the scholars. The time set apart for denominational teaching was finished at half-past nine o'clock and the teacher pointed this out to the curate. The curate continued, and after a time, the teacher again pointed out that the time for denominational instruction had expired. The curate still went on, and when the teacher once more protested against the curate taking up the time for secular instruction, he was reported by the curate to the managers appointed under last year's Act and had since been dismissed. It was understood that the dismissal was on account of the teacher being insolent to the curate; but it would be interesting to know—though it was not known—what the curate said to the teacher and what the teacher said to the curate. A different conclusion might then be arrived at as to who was insolent. One thing was certain, that if there was to be a body of managers set up—two-thirds of whom were elected by the trustees and one-third by the educational authority—there would be eternal friction and trouble all along the line. In the interests of education pure and simple, he asked the Government to accept his Amendment. He begged to move.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 1, line 8, leave out the words, 'provided schools.'"—(*Mr. Mansfield.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'provided' stand part of the Bill."

*SIR WILLIAM ANSON said that just now they had been told that the scheme of management which had been settled last year was one which should not be departed from; but now they came to a scheme of management applicable to another sort of school, the conditions of which were discussed at infinitely greater length, and they were asked to upset one of the principal features of the Act of last year by the omission of the word "provided." That was to say, that all the voluntary schools of London were to be under the management of the local education authority. It would be impossible for him to go at length into the struggle of last year or the various considerations brought before the House which determined the relation of the numbers, in these various schemes, of the foundation managers and those appointed by the local education authority. What lay at the root of that settlement was the admission—he thought the general admission—that there was no desire that the schools should be other than denominational—that the voluntary schools—Roman Catholic, Anglican, Wesleyan—should retain their character; and the only question was the method by which this maintenance of character could be secured. The House determined, after long debates, that a two-thirds majority on the board of management was practically the only security for the continuance of teaching of a denominational character, which would retain the denominational origin and nature of the school. From that settlement he was not now prepared to depart. The conditions under which these schools were to be retained were fixed after great debate during the autumn session—that the secular instruction was to be entirely under the local education authority, and the religious instruction under the foundation managers—and were most carefully set forth in Section 7 of last year's Act; and to accept the Amendment would involve an alteration of the whole relation of the voluntary schools to the local education authority. It would be quite impossible to alter the conditions of management and hand over the voluntary schools to the management of the local education authority. He understood that the hon. Member thought that great trouble would arise if the system of management adopted last year was preserved in the present Bill. The hon. Gentleman told a story about a teacher who had suffered injustice at the hands of a curate, but if the hon. Gentleman looked at the Act of last year he would see that that sort of injustice could not be perpetrated under the provisions of the 7th Clause.

MR. MANSFIELD said that the injustice was perpetrated quite recently under the provisions of last year's Act.

*SIR WILLIAM ANSON said that, if the case was quite recent, he hoped that they had not yet heard the end of the story. The control of the local education authority was complete as regarded secular instruction, and as regarded religious instruction the teacher could only be dealt with by the managers. He quite admitted that the hon. Member might be right in saying that the arrangement of last year was not universally acted upon, but he was not prepared, at this stage of the Bill, after the short experience they had had of the working of the Act of last year, to depart from the settlement then arrived at after full discussion.

MR. YOXALL said he hoped the House would not deal too strongly with the Act of last year in retaining all its features. The intention in this Bill was to apply the Education Act of 1902 to London "so far as applicable, and subject to the provisions of this Act." It was urged that they should apply a different local management to the non-provided schools where they existed over a scattered area, to that for the provided schools where they did exist. But that could not be applicable to the area of London, where there was a provided school at one end of the street and a non-provided school at the other end. The argument might be true of a rural area, but could not be true of a London area. It was laid down by the Act of last year that a non-provided school which made certain provision of rent-free premises for the use of the local education authority might be a denominational school; and he did not think that the

Amendment of his hon. friend would alter that provision, although it would make the management wholly public. The denominational instruction, so dear to the hearts of hon. Gentlemen opposite, would not have been in danger if the schools were wholly under public control; while, from the point of view of educational efficiency, the avoidance of friction, and the uniformity of administration, the Amendment of his hon. friend was highly desirable. The ecclesiastical influence, so manifest last year, had profoundly modified the details of the clause in the present Bill. It might be the case that the clergy were not the professional friends of the denominational schools in London, but he could say that the teachers in the denominational schools in London—men who had worked very hard, with very poor remuneration, men who had sacrificed much, and whose privations had made it possible for these schools to go on in the past—were distinctly in favour of the management of the non-provided schools coming under the same management as the provided schools. The non-provided schools were managed very badly indeed as a rule. There would be under this proposal a grouping of schools under some other body of managers, and they would have the London Diocesan Board supervising and controlling the denominational schools of London in a sectarian way, thus promoting friction and difficulties. His hon. friend had introduced a most valuable Amendment, which he should have great pleasure in supporting.

DR. MACNAMARA said he was extremely obliged to his hon. friend for moving this important Amendment. He should have thought that the Secretary to the Board of Education might have consulted the members of the Government to see whether this suggestion could not be accepted as a happy issue out of the grave difficulties by which the preferential management of non-provided schools would be accompanied. The scheme of four denominational and two public managers was unworkable; it had already come to his notice that the gravest difficulty was felt in many of the large towns. There would, for instance, be great difficulties as to paying the bill for structural alterations. He prophesied that the Board of Education would be besieged with repudiations of expenditure from time to time on the part of the four denominational and the two public managers respectively, and all sorts of practical difficulties would arise. But apart from the question of machinery there was the graver question of the injustice involved in this preferential treatment. The Government had never understood why the man in the street, who was not very keen about the form of religious instruction, recognised that this preferential treatment was scandalously unjust. The total maintenance per child was 60s.—to bring it up to the level of the provided school—and how was that made up? The denominationalists, if they took the Government's own Returns, were to find 2s. a year per child, and the value of the building which the public desired to use was 3s. per child, making a total of 5s. per child per year, so that the public found 55s. out of 60s. and the denominationalists 5s. Therefore the man in the street said the public found eleven-twelfths, and the denominationalist one-twelfth. The result was that the public, which was to have eleven-twelfths of the financial obligation, was to have only four-twelfths of the management, while the denominationalists, who had one-twelfth of the financial obligation, were to have eight-twelfths of the management. That was the issue; it was that which had caused the irritation throughout the country, and it was that which would bring about the ultimate breakdown. The public were not going to have that arrangement.

The London County Council had earnestly protested against being required by law to levy rates to be applied in the maintenance of denominational schools, and had urged the Government to withdraw the Bill, mainly because of this preferential system of denominational management. The Government desired to help voluntary schools and to get rid of the voluntary element, and so did he; but they could not do it in this way. He had no doubt that if the Bill passed, as he supposed it would, they would have a resolution of the London County Council resolutely declining, on this ground, to carry the law into effect; and when the County Council election took place next March he had no doubt that an enormous majority would be returned in favour of refusing to spend rates to find eleven-twelfths of the money in return for only four-twelfths of the managers. Some Government, if not this, would have to determine that the local authority responsible for the money should have the entire control of the management. The Government were really doing a very bad day's work for the denominational schools; they would not get the money, and much irritation and controversy would be set up. He did not know whether the Prime Minister had yet heard of the Albert Hall meeting, but that meeting and the Hyde Park demonstration proved conclusively that there was a very powerful volume of feeling in London against the proposal of the Government. He desired to see the voluntary schools adequately financed but they could not do it in this way, and those who were pushing this proposal, irrespective of public opinion, were doing the cause they had at heart a very ill service. The only legitimate ground upon which they could put this scheme was that the public authority must have the whole control. If some denominational schools went by the board because of bad management then they must go and provide their own money, but if those schools were maintained by public money they must be under public control. He thought the Government were ill-advised not to close with an offer of this sort, which would leave the denominational schools just as denominational, but would give them proper finances and place them under proper control.

MR. WHITLEY said he thought that some faint signs of grace might be detected in the last words of the Secretary to the Board of Education. He said he was not prepared to alter the arrangement with regard to voluntary schools. He thought perhaps he was already beginning to understand how hopelessly impossible that arrangement was, and was beginning to see that either he or someone else would before very long have to radically alter what he had called "the settlement of last year," but what they declared to be the unsettlement of last year. The hon. Baronet also said that he was not quite sure that he understood the effect of his hon. friend's Amendment. He would suggest a very simple illustration which would make it quite clear—he alluded to the provision of the Jewish schools in the Metropolis at the present time. There they had an instance of a separate religious community with their excellent schools under the control of the London School Board, and that arrangement had worked with excellent results for many years. The School Board appointed the managers; there were no objectionable religious tests, and they appointed Jewish teachers to teach in those schools. The hon. Baronet knew perfectly well that this arrangement worked with a most excellent success, and what they were offering now was the last chance to the Government of anything like a real settlement of this very debatable question in London, namely, that the Government should put denominational schools in the same position as Jewish schools, which had been worked so satisfactorily for many years. He did not know where the representatives of the Jewish community in the House were at that moment, but he suspected they were on the Terrace. Had they been present probably they would have had the hon. Member for Limehouse voting for this Amendment. He thought those representing the Jewish community ought at least to come and support them in obtaining the same arrangement for other less-favoured religious communities. There was another point which had entirely escaped the hon. Baronet's attention. He alluded to the new by-law, which made all the difference in the world. It gave the possibility of preserving that inalienable right of the parents, about which they heard so much last year, without interfering with the principle of public management. If the Government would give them that by-law and public management they would be satisfied, and they could at least join hands with hon. Members on the other side in working for education apart from those wretched religious questions. The imposition of religious tests in privately managed schools which were to be supported by public funds was bound to introduce irritation and friction into their educational system. This Amendment made it possible for the Government, in the case of London, not only to get rid of the religious difficulty, but to make an experiment in London which they thought might be a solution of this question so far as the rest of the country was concerned. If the Government had only sufficient courage to accept the offer now held out to them on this occasion, they might not only save themselves from making a mistake in the education of London but they might also find a way of salvation for themselves out of the imbroglio into which they had got. Otherwise nothing could save them but their dissolution. He trusted the faint signs of grace apparent in the last words of the Secretary to the Board of Education would grow and flourish before this Amendment was put to a division, and that the Government would accept the Amendment.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON said his hon. friend behind him had done good service to the House and the country by raising this question as regarded London. He could not share the sanguine hopes of his hon. friend. They could not expect the Government to change now, but this Amendment gave them an opportunity of entering their protest against the system adopted last year and now extended to London. The statement of the hon. Baronet that he gathered that the system of nominating managers to the voluntary schools was almost universally agreed to, was most astonishing, because the hon. Baronet must be aware there was the strongest possible protest against it, and against the payment of rates without a proper representation on the management. And these protests would be accentuated in the case of London. He would be extremely glad to have this question settled on terms satisfactory to the denominational schools as well as to the country at large. There was no desire to deprive the schools of their denominational teachers, but from the point of view of representation and efficiency they ought to be under the control of the local authority. He was afraid this feeling was even more acute in London than in the country, having regard to the resolution of the London County Council which had been read, that they would not give London rates to schools not under the education authority. That would seriously add to the difficulties of the London schools. On these grounds he hoped the Government would accept the Amendment.

MR. GEORGE WHITE said he was sorry that the Government were determined to keep this provision in the Bill, because it showed that they had learnt nothing from the operation of the Act of last year in the country. Nothing had caused greater friction throughout the country up to the present than this question of the appointment of managers. The Prime Minister had charged them with raising sectarian rather than denominational questions on this question, but that question was raised by the Bill itself, and they were not responsible for it in any way. He could give many instances where schools under the Act of last year had become absolutely sectarian, which was extremely objectionable to those who had to pay the rates. All these schools were equally maintained out of the rates, and when the ratepayers—many of whom were Nonconformists—found the whole control going into the hands of one body, it naturally excited all kinds of strife and contention. The Prime Minister, if he read the newspapers and knew what was going on in the country, could not possibly believe that real good educational work was being done under this system. It began with strife, and educational work could only be carried on effectively by the good-will of the people. What was proceeding under this Bill? He went through one of our great towns a short while ago, and he was told, in answer to inquiries he made of a friend who was one of the managers of the schools, that under this system of management the clergyman assumed to take the chair by right; that he was appointed treasurer; that he was appointed correspondent; and also to check the register, and nobody else had any right to look into the affairs of the schools. Under those circumstances his friend doubted whether it was any use attending any further meetings. As long as the system embodied in the clause existed the friction would continue, and the educational interests of the children suffer. Many of the opponents of the Bill had devoted to the work of education more years than the Prime Minister had hours, and yet, because they stood up to defend the rights of conscience. they were charged with being the advocates of sectarianism. It was because they believed that sectarianism stood in the way of educational progress, and that as long as sectarianism was promoted by such Bills as that under discussion educational progress was impossible, that they felt bound to make their protest. They would be only too glad to discuss the question on purely educational grounds, but they had to perform a primary duty from which they would not shrink, whatever the attitude of the Government might be.

Mr. LOUGH said the question had been argued as though the Act of 1902 was being exactly followed, and the hon. Baronet had resisted the Amendment on the ground that the House arrived at a decision on the point last year. It should be borne in mind, however, that there was no parallel in the Act of 1902 for the course that was being followed in London. The Borough Councils were to have no right whatever of appointing any managers in connection with the schools not provided by the local authority That was a complete departure from the Act of last year. The Amendment would secure unity of management. The argument constantly used last year was that a majority of the managers of the voluntary schools must be appointed by the trustees because a majority of the children in the country were educated in voluntary schools. In London the case was different. In every area there would be voluntary schools over which the Borough Councils would not have the slightest control. The Amendment would supply the necessary link between the voluntary schools and the Borough Councils. The matter might be compromised by allowing the Borough Councils to appoint two managers.

* Sir WILLIAM ANSON said that under the Bill the situation would be the same as under the Principal Act—the County Council would appoint one manager, and the Borough Council as the minor local authority would appoint one manager.

Mr. LOUGH thought the Government might go a little farther, considering the circumstances of the London case, and give the Borough Councils two managers without reducing the number appointed by the County Council.

Mr. SPEAR (Devonshire, Tavistock) appealed to the Parliamentary Secretary to do something to meet the case under discussion. He ventured when last year's Bill was in Committee to urge the desirability of giving greater popular representation on the Committees of Management, and he ventured to say that the experience of the working of the 1902 Act had so far showed that to be the chief blot on the Bill. The denominational character of the schools could be safely preserved by a special clause, and the broader and more democratic was the management the better it would be for the schools and the public as well. As one who was very hopeful of the working of last year's Act, he believed there was no alternative to its main lines if they desired to co-ordinate education. As one who supported that Bill, he appealed to the Government to do something to meet the strong feeling that had been aroused in some districts on this matter. He wished, as a Nonconformist, to dissociate himself entirely from the movement of passive resistance which had taken place in certain parts of the country. The Bill was something in the nature of a compromise. It was impossible to produce a perfect measure at first, but where there were defects, there was always a constitutional way of remedying them. He claimed that Nonconformists had done much to further the religious life and education of the country, and he objected to the fair fame of Nonconformity being besmirched by the methods of the passive resistance movement. At the same time. he felt that there was some grievance, but, having regard to the complete control exercised by the County Council, he hoped that the Bill would work fairly well, notwithstanding the illogical composition of the Committee of Management. He again appealed to the Government to give more popular representation on the Committee of Management.

MR. SAMUEL EVANS (Glamorganshire, Mid) said that if the hon. Member for the Tavistock Division spoke as a Nonconformist he surely would not object to anybody following the dictates of his conscience in a matter of this sort. In that case, where did the "besmirching" come in? It was the fair fame, not of Nonconformity, but of the Government, that was being besmirched. It had been frequently argued that outside the House there was no feeling whatever on the question of sectarianism, but recent experience showed that the strongest possible feeling existed in the country on the matter, and that it was not manufactured for the purposes of debate. It was necessary that the Government should face that fact. If they thought the movement was merely temporary and would soon die down, they were probably right in pursuing the same course now as in the Act of 1902. But he thought that could hardly be their view. They must realise that there was such a depth of feeling among Nonconformists as would carry on the movement with renewed force, and that there was no prospect of it coming to an end in the immediate future. That being so, surely it would be better to accept the situation, and deal with it in regard to this Bill. Did the Government desire the passive resistance movement to extend to London?

MR. SPEAKER said the remarks the hon. Member was now making would be more appropriate to the Third Reading of the Bill.

MR. SAMUEL EVANS said the point he desired to make was that the extension of the movement would probably be avoided if the popular control of the schools was extended. What would the London County Council do? Several County Councils, certainly in Wales, had decided not to put the Act into operation so far as the voluntary schools were concerned unless popular control were given. The hon. Baronet had been forewarned in this matter. When a body like the London County Council declared its intention beforehand it was pertinent to consider whether the Amendment was worthy of support or not. The London County Council expressed, by eighty votes against twenty-three, its deep regret that the Bill failed to provide for the efficient management of education or for popular control, and, by sixty votes against ten, the Council passed a resolution protesting strongly against the maintenance of schools not under public control out of public funds and the payment of teachers subject to religious tests. That was a frank protest on the part of the London County Council, which was to be called upon to administer the Act. The London County Council would, according to the hon. Baronet, only have the appointment of one out of six managers. The Council protested against that state of things; and he felt sure that if the hon. Baronet pursued the course indicated in the clause he would have the opposition to the Act of last year, which existed up and down the country, repeated in London. The Government would be pursuing a wise policy, in their own interests and in the interests of education, if they acknowledged the unwisdom of the boards of management for voluntary schools proposed in last year's Act.

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 253; Noes, 130. (Division List No. 158.)

AYES.

Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Aird, Sir John
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Arrol, Sir William
Atkinson, Rt. Hon.
Aubrey-Fletcher, Rt. Hn. Sir H.
Bailey, James (*Walworth*)
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Baird, John George Alexander
Balfour, Rt Hon. A. J. (*Manch'r*)
Balfour, Capt. C. B. (*Hornsey*
Balfour, Rt. Hn. G. W. (*Leeds*
Balfour, Kenneth R. (*Christch*
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Bathurst, Hon. Allen Benj.
Beach, Rt. Hon. Sir M. Hicks
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bowles, Lt-Col. H. F. (*Middlesex*
Bowles, T. Gibson (*Lynn Regis*)
Brassey, Albert
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Bull, William James

Burdett-Coutts, W.
Butcher, John George
Campbell, Rt. Hn J. A (*Glasgow*
Carson, Rt. Hn. Sir Edward H.
Cavendish, R. F. (*N. Lancs.*)
Cavendish, V. C. W. (*Derbyshire*
Cayzer, Sir Charles William
Cecil, Evelyn (*Aston Manor*)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (*Greenwich*)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J. (*Birm*
Chapman, Edward
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Cochrane, Hon. T. H. A. E.
Coddington, Sir William
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Collings, Right Hon. Jesse
Colomb, Sir John Charles Ready
Colston, Chas. Edw H. Athole
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Cox, Irwin Edwd. Bainbridge
Cripps, Charles Alfred
Cross, Herb. Shepherd (*Bolton*
Crossley, Rt. Hon. Sir Savile
Cullinan, J.

Delany, William
Denny, Colonel
Devlin, Chas. Ramsay (*Galway*)
Dickinson, Robert Edmond
Dillon, John
Dimsdale, Rt. Hn. Sir Joseph C.
Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
Dixon-Hartland, Sir Fred Dix'n
Donelan, Captain A.
Doogan, P. C.
Dorington, Rt. Hon. Sir J. E.
Doughty, George
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers
Duke, Henry Edward

Egerton, Hon. A. de Tatton
Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas
Esmonde, Sir Thomas

Faber, E. B. (*Hants, W.*)
Faber, George Denison (*York*)
Fardell, Sir T. George
Fellowes, Hn. Ailwyn Edward
Fergusson, Rt. Hn Sir J. (*Manc'r*
Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
FitzGerald, Sir Robt. Penrose
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Flower, Ernest
Flynn, James Christopher
Forster, Henry William
Foster, Philip S (*Warwick, S. W*
Fyler, John Arthur

Galloway, William Johnson
Garfit, William
Gibbs, Hn. Vicary (*St. Albans*
Gilhooly, James
Godson, Sir Augustus Fredk.
Gordon, Hn. J. E (*Elgin and Nairn*
Gore, Hn G. R C. Ormsby- (*Salop*
Gore, Hn. S. F. Ormsby- (*Linc*
Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir J. Eldon
Goschen, Hon. George Joachim
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Gray, Ernest (*West Ham*)
Greene, Sir E. W. (*Bury St. Ed.*
Greene, W. Raymond (*Cambs*
Gretton, John
Groves, James Grimble

Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Gunter, Sir Robert
Guthrie, Walter Murray

Halsey, Rt. Hon. Thomas F.
Hamilton, Rt Hn Ld. G. (*Midx*
Hardy, Laurence (*Kent, Ashf'rd*
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Harris, Frederick Leverton
Haslam, Sir Alfred S.
Hatch, Ernest Frederick Geo.
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Hayden, John Patrick
Heath, James (*Staffs., N. W.*)
Henderson, Sir Alexander
Hickman, Sir Alfred
Hobhouse, Rt. Hn H. (*Som's't, E*
Hogg, Lindsay
Hornby, Sir William Henry
Houldsworth, Sir Wm. Henry
Howard, Jno (*Kent, Faver'hm*
Howard, J. (*Midd., Tottenham*

Jebb, Sir Richard Claverhouse
Jeffreys, Rt. Hn. Arthur Fred
Jessel, Capt, Herbert Merton
Johnstone, Heywood

Kennedy, Patrick James
Kenyon, Hon. G. T. (*Denbigh*
Kenyon-Slaney, Col. W. (*Salop*
Kerr, John
Kilbride, Denis
Knowles, Lees

Lambton, Hon. Fredk. Wm.
Laurie, Lieut.-General
Law, Andrew Bonar (*Glasgow*
Lawrence, Sir Jos. (*Monm'th*)
Lawrence, Wm. F. (*Liverpool*)
Lawson, John Grant (*Yorks. N R*
Lees, Sir Elliott (*Birkenhead*)
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leveson-Gower, Frederick N. S
Llewellyn, Evan Henry
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Long, Col. Charles W. (*Evesham*
Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (*Bristol, S*)
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lowe, Francis William
Lowther, C. (*Cumb. Eskdale*)
Lowther, Rt. Hon. Jas. (*Kent*)
Lucas, Col. Francis (*Lowestoft*
Lucas, Reg'ld J. (*Portsmouth*)
Lundon, W.

Macdona, John Cumming
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
M'Arthur, Charles (*Liverpool*)
M'Iver, Sir Lewis (*Edinburgh W*
M'Killop, James (*Stirlingshire*
M'Killop, W. (*Sligo, North*)
Malcolm, Ian
Manners, Lord Cecil
Martin, Richard Biddulph
Melville, Beresford Valentine
Meysey-Thompson, Sir H. M.
Milvain, Thomas
Mitchell, William (*Burnley*)
Montagu, G. (*Huntingdon*)
Montagu, Hon. J. Scott (*Hants.*)
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
Morgan, D. J. (*Walthamstow*)
Morgan, Hn. F. (*Monm'thsh.*)
Morton, Arthur H. Aylmer
Mount, William Arthur
Mowbray, Sir Robert Gray C.
Murray, Rt Hn A. Graham (*Bute*

Murray, Chas. J. (*Coventry*)
Murray, Col. Wyndham (*Bath*)
Myers, William Henry

Nolan, Col. John P. (*Galway, N.*

O'Brien, K. (*Tipperary, Mid*)
O'Connor, T. P. (*Liverpool*)
O'Kelly, Conor (*Mayo, N.*)
O'Kelly, J. (*Roscommon, N.*)
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James

Peel, Hn. Wm. R. Wellesley
Pemberton, John S. G.
Percy, Earl
Pierpoint, Robert
Pilkington, Colonel Richard
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Plummer, Walter R.
Pretyman, Ernest George
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Pym, C. Guy

Randles, John S.
Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
Redmond, William (*Clare*)
Reid, James (*Greenock*)
Remnant, James Farquharson
Renshaw, Sir Charles Bine
Ridley, Hon. M. W. (*Stalybridge*
Ridley, S. F. (*Bethnal Green*)
Ritchie, Rt. Hn. C. Thomson
Roberts, Samuel (*Sheffield*)
Robertson, H. (*Hackney*)
Rolleston, Sir John F. L.
Rollit, Sir Albert Kaye
Round, Rt. Hon. James
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Rutherford, John (*Lancashire*

Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford
Samuel, Harry S. (*Limehouse*
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Scott, Sir S. (*Marylebone, W.*)
Seely, Charles Hilton (*Lincoln*
Seely, Maj. J. E. B. (*Isle of Wight*
Shaw-Stewart, M. H. (*Renfrew*
Simeon, Sir Barrington
Smith, Abel H. (*Hertford, E.*)
Smith, H. C (*North'mb Tyneside*
Smith, Jas. Parker (*Lanarks.*)
Smith, Hn. W. F. D. (*Strand*)
Stanley, Hon. A. (*Ormskirk*)
Stanley, Edw. Jas. (*Somerset*)
Stanley, Lord (*Lancs.*)
Stewart, Sir M. J. M'Taggart
Stirling-Maxwell, Sir John M.
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley

Talbot, Rt. Hn. J. G. (*Oxf'd Univ*
Taylor, Austin (*East Toxteth*)
Thornton, Percy M.
Tomlinson, Sir Wm. Edw. M.
Tritton, Charles Ernest
Tufnell, Lieut.-Col. Edward

Valentia, Viscount

Walrond, Rt. Hn. Sir William H.
Warde, Colonel C. E.
Webb, Colonel William George
Welby, Lt-Col. A. C. E (*Taunton*
Whiteley, H. (*Ashton-u.-Lyne*)
Whitmore, Charles Algernon
Willoughby de Eresby, Lord
Wilson, A. Stanley (*York, E. R.*
Wilson, John (*Glasgow*)
Wilson-Todd, Wm. H. (*Yorks.*

Wodehouse, Rt. Hn. E. R(*Bath*
Worsley-Taylor, Henry Wilson
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C.B. Stuart
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Wyndham-Quin, Major W. H.
Young, Samuel

TELLERS FOR THE AYES — Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Mr. Anstruther.

NOES

Allan, Charles P. (*Glouc. Stroud*
Asher, Alexander
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Asquith, Rt. Hon. Herbt. Hy.
Barlow, John Emmott
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Beaumont, Wentworth, C. B.
Black, Alexander William
Bolton, Thomas Dolling
Brand, Hon. Arthur G.
Brigg, John
Broadhurst, Henry
Brown, George M. (*Edinburgh*
Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Burt, Thomas
Buxton, Sydney Charles
Caldwell, James
Cameron, Robert
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Causton, Richard Knight
Channing, Francis Allston
Corbett, T. L. (*Down, North*)
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, Alfred (*Carmarthen*)
Davies, M. Vaughan- (*Cardign*
Dewar, John A. (*Inverness-shire*
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Douglas, Charles M. (*Lanark*)
Duncan, J. Hastings
Dunn, Sir William
Elibank, Master of
Ellis, John Edward
Emmott, Alfred
Evans, Saml. T. (*Glamorgan*)
Farquharson, Dr. Robert
Fenwick, Charles
Ferguson, R. C. Munro (*Leith*
Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmund
Foster, Sir Michael (*Lond. Univ*
Foster, Sir Walter (*Derby Co.*
Fuller, J. M. F.
Furness, Sir Christopher
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Grant, Corrie
Griffith, Ellis J.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Harmsworth, R. Leicester
Harwood, George
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Charles Seale
Hayter, Rt Hon Sir Arthur D.
Hemphill, Rt. Hon. Chas. H.
Holland, Sir William Henry
Hope, John Deans (*Fife, West*)
Horniman, Frederick John
Humphreys-Owen, Arthur C.
Hutton, Alfred E. (*Morley*)
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jones, David Brynmor (*Sw'nsea*
Jones, Wm. (*Carnarvonshire*)
Kitson, Sir James
Labouchere, Henry
Langley, Batty
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leng, Sir John
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, David
Lough, Thomas
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
M'Crae, George
M'Kenna, Reginald
Mansfield, Horace Rendall
Mappin, Sir Frederick Thorpe
Markham, Arthur Basil
Mellor, Rt. Hn. John William
Mitchell, Edw. (*Fermanagh, N.*
Morgan, J. Lloyd (*Carmarthen*)
Moulton, George Fletcher
Newnes, Sir George
Palmer, Sir C. M. (*Durham*)
Partington, Oswald
Paulton, James Mellor
Pearson, Sir Weetman D.
Perks, Robert William
Philipps, John Wynford
Pirie, Duncan V.
Price, Robert John
Priestley, Arthur
Rea, Russell
Reid, Sir R. Threshie (*Dumfries*
Rickett, J. Compton
Rigg, Richard
Roberts, John H. (*Denbighs.*)
Robson, William Snowdon
Runciman, Walter
Russell, T. W.
Samuel, Herbert L. (*Cleveland*)
Shaw, Charles Edw. (*Stafford*)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair, John (*Forfarshire*)
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Soares, Ernest J.
Spencer, Rt Hn. C. R (*Northants*
Strachey, Sir Edward
Taylor, Theodore C. (*Radcliffe*)
Tennant, Harold John
Thomas, Abel (*Carmarthen, E.*
Thomas, Sir A. (*Glam., E.*)
Thomas, David Alfred (*Merthyr*
Thomas, F. Freeman (*Hastings*
Thomson, F. W. (*York, W. R.*)
Tomkinson, James
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Wallace, Robert
Walton, Joseph (*Barnsley*)
Warner, Thos. Courtenay T.
Wason, Eugene (*Clackmannan*)
Wason, J. Cathcart (*Orkney*)
Weir, James Galloway
White, George (*Norfolk*)
Whiteley, G. (*York, W. R.*)
Whitley, J. H. (*Halifax*)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Williams, O. (*Merioneth*)
Wilson, F.W. (*Norfolk, Mid*)
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE NOES— Mr. Herbert Gladstone and Mr. William M'Arthur.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 1, line 8, to leave out the word 'schools,' and insert the words, 'by the local education authority.'"—(*Mr. Peel.*)

Amendment agreed to.

MR. BOND moved an Amendment with the object of eliminating the Borough Councils from any participation in connection with the work of the schools. He said the arguments *pro* and *con* were well known, and he need not trouble the House at any length respecting them. The amount of authority now left to the Borough Councils was so small and ineffective that he could not believe that there was any real desire on their part to retain it, and it did introduce a possible element of discord in the constitution proposed to be set up. They had had experience already as to how managers should be appointed. They had been appointed by the School Board, and, so far as he knew, with satisfactory results. That appeared to him to be the plan which should be pursued in future, substituting the local education authority for the School Board. It was suggested that by adopting the plan proposed in the Bill some fresh element of educational interest or enthusiasm would be introduced into the working of the system. For his part he was rather sceptical about it. The number of persons in London who would take an interest in education was comparatively small, and they would always come forward if opportunity was given to them. It had been more difficult for the School Board to get efficient managers than to discriminate between applicants for the posts. In some districts it was difficult to find people who possessed the necessary qualifications, and who could afford to give the time which the proper management of the schools undoubtedly demanded. Under these circumstances it seemed to him that they had better not run any risk in the matter, but, having gone so far as they had gone in altering, modifying, and almost destroying the constitution originally proposed by the framers of the Bill, that they should give this part the *coup de grace* and keep the Borough Councils out altogether. As things at present stood the School Board which appointed the managers could get rid of them. From time to time a manager might turn out to be corrupt, or, for some reason or other, not to be a desirable person to be associated in the management of a school of young children. If such a manager were appointed by a Borough Council that Council might take a different view from the Education Committee, and there would be an opportunity for quarrelling. The differences of opinion arising might assume quite a serious aspect, and, although he did not say that such cases would be frequent, he could not see any good reason for running a risk of that kind. He therefore moved.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 1, line 8, after the last Amendment to leave out the words, 'within the area of each Metropolitan Borough.'"—(*Mr. Bond.*)

Question proposed, "That the words, 'within the area of each Metropolitan Borough' stand part of the Bill."

MR. WHITLEY said it was a great pity there was nobody to speak a word for the Borough Councils when the last shred of their privileges contained in the Bill was proposed to be taken away. When the Bill was before the House in the Committee stage, two stalwart supporters of the Government looked after the interests of those Councils, but to-day, when he looked round the House, he could not help asking, "Where are the champions of the Borough Councils?" Was there not a single Member on the Government side to get up and withstand this Amendment? He agreed with the hon. Member that what was left to the Borough Councils was not worth having from their point of view, but it would be a source of irritation if allowed to remain, and if the Government were wise they would strike out the Borough Councils from the management altogether.

MR. LOUGH said if a little thought were given to this Amendment the Government might be inclined to accept it. The Borough Councils were not grateful to the Government for the position in which they were now left under the Bill. The Government had been pursuing this will-o'-the-wisp with the view apparently of doing something to gratify these Borough Councils. He appealed to the London Members to look at the proposal of the Government from the point of view of any single case with which they were familiar. In the case of Islington the Borough Council consisted of fifty or sixty members who made considerable sacrifices in order to carry out their municipal duties. They did their work well under the Local Government Act for London; but he did not believe that they were conscious of the number of schools in the borough or that they had any consciousness of the exact work of school managers. Why should this body of sixty or seventy men appoint 300 or 400 managers without any knowledge of the duties which these managers would have to discharge, and without any financial control over the educational system which the managers were to conduct? When the matter was put in that simple manner, he could not see how any one could argue that the right of nominating these managers should be left in the hands of the Borough Councils. They were creating a new education authority for London, and if they left it alone it would go into the

School Board offices, and follow the School Board conditions, and yet, with everything so easy to the hands of the Government, for the gratification of some whim, the thing was to be split up into twenty-nine parts. It seemed to him to be a crazy proposal, and thoroughly inconsistent with the policy which the Government had now gradually adopted. He appealed to the hon. Baronet to re-consider his position, and he likewise hoped that hon. Gentlemen on the other side would support one of their own number in moving to get quit of the Borough Councils for good and all.

SIR FREDERICK BANBURY (Camberwell, Peckham) said he should vote with his hon. friend who moved the Amendment. It seemed to him a most unbusinesslike proceeding to appoint an authority, and not allow that authority to designate its own managers. The representatives of the Borough Councils would undoubtedly be likely to create friction, and at the same time do no good. He understood his hon. friend who was in charge of the Bill to say that if the managers did not work with the County Council, the County Council, although it could not dismiss them, could take the authority from them and give it to a Committee. That was certain to produce friction, and he considered that the arrangement with regard to this matter had only been made to satisfy the *amour propre* of the Borough Councils.

DR. MACNAMARA said he had listened with extreme gratification to the hon. Member for Peckham, and he cordially agreed with every word the hon. Member had said. Every scheme brought forward to keep up the representation of the Borough Councils had failed, and he hoped the idea would now be abandoned. He thought the wisest course was to provide that the local education authority should determine the number of managers and the grouping of the schools after consultation with the Borough Councils, and subject to the approval of the Board of Education. Educationally a Borough Council area did not exist in London; it existed only for municipal purposes. In fact he knew of the case of a school which was practically in two Borough Council areas, and the idea of a Borough Council area being an educational area should at once be dismissed as preposterous. The scheme in the Bill was not the position in the country, and it would not be workable in London.

MR. HENRY HOBHOUSE (Somersetshire, E.) said that the provision in the Act of last year which gave power to the local education authority to appoint two-thirds of the managers, and to the minor authority to appoint one-third, had worked exceedingly well. He would not exclude the Borough Councils entirely from nominating the board of management, but he would be prepared to agree that they should nominate one-half instead of two-thirds. That would take away any excuse the County Council might have for saying that they were left in a small minority. He hoped that some provision would be made for ensuring that among the first managers appointed there would be a proper proportion of the present managers under the London School Board. They were a valuable body and consisted largely of women; and if they were recognised in that way, he felt assured that their services would be largely continued in the future.

MR. BRYCE said that it had been just a little bit forgotten what the duty of the managers was. The silence of the Government on this Amendment was not attributable to the arguments they had used on the previous Amendment, because they gave the House no argument whatever. The Government did not seem to realise that the managers were to be the agents of the local education authority; they were to act under their direction, and carry out the instructions of that authority as to the management and control of the schools and report upon them. Was there any reason why they had got to give the appointment of those agents to somebody else instead of keeping it to themselves? It was absurd to bring in the Borough Councils, and it would only introduce complication and possible friction, by giving the appointment of the managers to a body which had nothing to do with the functions to be discharged by the managers. That was brought out by the hon. Member for Nottingham in regard to the question of dismissal. The dismissal was to be in the hands of the Borough Councils, but the Borough Councils did not know the reason for dismissal, because they never would know how a school was working. They gave no instructions and received no reports. All these things were done by the local education authority, and it was only the education authority who could say whether a man or a woman was a good or a bad manager. He submitted that that argument was conclusive on the matter. But there was another point of some importance. There were large districts of London where there were extremely few people who had either the leisure or the knowledge which would qualify them to undertake the work of managers. That deficiency was met at present by the School Board enlisting the services of leisured and philanthropically disposed persons from other parts of London, and these managers had not only given the poorer districts what they could not supply themselves, but had formed a very valuable link between the richer and the poorer parts of London. The people who lived in the poorer districts after all worked in the richer districts, and it was a positive gain that those who lived in the better parts should have this opportunity of going down into these poor and neglected districts and doing what had been done for the schools in the past by the London School Board. He did not think this could be equally well managed by the Borough Councils, whose knowledge was local and was not educational, who did not know the people in their own areas, and who knew still less the people in other areas. They would therefore be taking away a real benefit the poorer districts had enjoyed if they deprived them of the opportunity of getting this kind of help from the other parts of London. There had been no argument adduced by the Government to show that the Borough Councils were needed to determine the number and the character of the managers to be appointed. As a matter of fact they were not needed, and under those circumstances he hoped the Government would eliminate the Borough Councils from a function for which they had no special competence.

*Sir WILLIAM ANSON said the real question between them was who was to retain the initiative in choosing the managers—whether they were to retain the system of School Board management or whether they were to endeavour to create a local management? He was in favour of local management. He quite admitted that the School Board managers had done admirable work, a most unselfish and valuable work, for the schools. But he believed also that there was a very considerable element of valuable work which they might get at if they could excite more local interest in the management of the schools. What he had been told was that there was material accessible if only local interest were excited. The sooner they made the Borough Councils feel that the children of the borough were members of the borough, for whom they ought to have some care, the better. Everybody knew that there was a great deal beside teaching which had to be attended to in the conduct of the schools. The children had to be looked after when they were leaving school by people who were interested in them, and they had to be attended to when they came to school to see that they were cared for and fed and brought to school in a condition in which they were capable of receiving the education offered to them. If they could get the Borough Councils to take an interest in that, if they could create the sort of feeling under which the boroughs would realise that the schools were their schools, that the children were their children, they would have done a very good thing for education in London. If the whole appointment of the managers was put in the hands of the County Council and the Borough Councils had nothing to say to their appointment, he thought the consultation of the boroughs by the County Council would be an empty form.

Mr. SYDNEY BUXTON said the argument of the hon. Baronet would have been more to the point if they had been discussing whether the Borough Councils should be the statutory managers. But was it not absurd to argue that they, not being themselves the managers but having the power to nominate three-fourths of the managers, would bring to this matter that local interest and local knowledge to which the hon. Baronet had referred. He should have thought it would not have the least effect in that direction, but he was perfectly certain that if this power were given to the local education authority it would practically reappoint the same body of managers as that which had done such valuable work for London under the School Board. If the Borough Councils were given the nomination of two-thirds, what would they naturally consider was the intention of the House of Commons in giving them that nomination? They would naturally think that the intention was that they should go rather outside the existing boroughs, and would take it as an instruction from this House that they were to get rid of the existing managers and put others in their place. That was the view that he would take if he was a borough councillor. He thought under these circumstances it was better to get rid of this Borough Council interest altogether, and from top to bottom place the matter in the hands of the central authority. He thought there was a good deal of force in the arguments of the Member who moved the Amendment. There was a great likelihood of this leading to great friction between the Borough Councils and the local authority, and if there was the least likelihood of any such friction arising, in the best interests of education they would be wise, he thought, in eliminating this last shadow of Borough Council interest and so leave the local authority in their proper position.

*MR. COHEN said he was not in favour of the Borough Councils having complete control over education, and was glad to see that eliminated from the Bill, but there was one point on which the Borough Councils should have the control, and that was the appointment of managers, in which the local knowledge, which they possessed and which the County Council did not possess, could be brought into play. He thought that they had heard quite sufficient of the bogey of friction between the London County Council and Borough Councils. He had had the privilege of being a Member of the London County Council for twelve years, and had never been a member of the majority of that body, but he knew from personal experience, that if there was one thing ever absent from every sphere of work of the London County Council, it was friction between the London County Council and those with whom they differed. He could assure the House that the apprehension of friction was totally unfounded. The County Council always displayed a tolerant spirit towards those with whom they differed.

*MR. ALFRED HUTTON (Yorkshire, W.R., Morley) said the House had heard with interest the hon. Member's experience of the London County Council, and could only wonder why there should have been such an exhibition of distrust of the County Council on the part of hon. Members opposite. The speech of the hon. Member would relieve the hon. Baronet from a very embarrassing position, and the support which it gave must be very welcome to the hon. Baronet, because he could hardly regard this clause with satisfaction. The speech of the hon. Baronet opposite showed that he was still hankering after his original scheme. They were glad to know that the Government had now at heart the desirability of local interest, of which they did not hear much last year. But what local interest would be secured by this proposal which could not be secured by the County Council? If the County Council appointed managers they would secure the assistance of people locally interested. Two words had been used which had had a great charm for them, unification and co-ordination, but he failed to see how under the system proposed any authority could enforce unification and co-ordination with regard to education in the various schools.

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 239; Noes, 128. (Division List, No. 159.)

AYES.

Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Arrol, Sir William

Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Aubrey-Fletcher, Rt. Hn. Sir H.
Bagot, Capt. Josceline Fitzroy
Bailey, James (*Walworth*)
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Baird, John George Alexander
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J. (*Man'r*
Balfour, Captain C. B. (*Hornsey*)
Balfour, Rt. Hn. G. W. (*Leeds*
Balfour, Kenneth R. (*Christch*
Bathurst, Hon. Allen Benjamin
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.
Bill, Charles
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bousfield, William Robert
Bowles, Lt.-Col. H. F (*Middlesex*
Brassey, Albert
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Bull, William James
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Butcher, John George
Campbell, Rt. Hn. J. A. (*Glasgow*
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Cautley, Henry Strother
Cavendish, R. F. (*N. Lancs.*)
Cavendish, V. C. W. (*Derbysh.*
Cayzer, Sir Charles William
Cecil, Evelyn (*Aston Manor*)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (*Greenwich*)
Chamberlain, Rt Hon J (*Birm*
Chapman, Edward
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Clive, Captain Percy A.
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Coddington, Sir William
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colomb, Sir John Charles Ready
Colston, Chas. Edw. H. Athole
Compton, Lord Alwyne
Corbett, T. L. (*Down, North*)
Cox, Irwin Edward Bainbridge
Cripps, Charles Alfred
Cross, Alexander (*Glasgow*)
Cross, H. Shepherd (*Bolton*)
Crossley, Rt. Hon. Sir Savile
Dickinson, Robert Edmond
Dimsdale, Rt. Hon. Sir Joseph C.
Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
Dixon-Hartland, Sir Fred Dixon
Dorington, Rt. Hon. Sir J. E.
Doughty, George
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Doxford, Sir William Theodore
Duke, Henry Edward
Egerton, Hon. A. de Tatton
Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas
Faber, E. B. (*Hants, W.*)
Faber, George Denison (*York*)
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Ed.
Fergusson, Rt. Hn. Sir J. (*Man'r*
Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
Finch, Rt. Hn. George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
FitzGerald, Sir Robt. Penrose
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Flower, Ernest
Forster, Henry William
Foster, Philip S. (*Warwick, S. W*
Fyler, John Arthur
Galloway, William Johnson
Garfit, William
Gibbs, Hn. Vicary (*St. Albans*
Godson, Sir Augustus Fredk.
Gordon Hn. J. E. (*Elgin & Nrn*
Gore, Hn G. R. C. Ormsby-(*Salop*
Gore, Hon. S. F. Ormsby-(*Linc.*
Goschen, Hon. George Joachim
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Gray, Ernest (*West Ham*)
Greene, Sir E. W. (*Bury St. Ed.*
Greene, W. Raymond- (*Cambs*
Gretton, John
Groves, James Grimble
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Gunter, Sir Robert
Hall, Edward Marshall
Halsey, Rt. Hon. Thomas F.
Hambro, Charles Eric
Hamilton, Rt Hn Ld. G. (*Midx*
Hardy, Laurence (*Kent, Ashfd*
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Harris, Frederick Leverton
Haslam, Sir Alfred S.
Hatch, Ernest Frederick Geo
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Heath, James (*Staffs., N. W.*)
Helder, Augustus
Henderson, Sir Alexander
Hickman, Sir Alfred
Hogg, Lindsay
Hornby, Sir William Henry
Houldsworth, Sir Wm. Henry
Howard, Jno (*Kent, Faver'hm*
Howard, J. (*Midd., Tott'ham*
Jameson, Major J. Eustace
Jebb, Sir Richard Claverhouse
Jeffreys, Rt. Hn. Arthur Fred
Jessel, Capt. Herbert Merton
Johnstone, Heywood
Kennedy, Patrick James
Kenyon, Hon. G. T. (*Denbigh*
Kenyon-Slaney, Col. W. (*Salop*
Kerr, John
Lambton, Hon. Fredk. Wm.
Law, Andrew Bonar (*Glasgow*
Lawrence, Sir Jos. (*Monm'th*)
Lawrence, Wm. F. (*Liverpool*
Lawson, John Grant (*Yorks, N. R*
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leveson-Gower, Frederick N. S.
Llewellyn, Evan Henry
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (*Bristol, S*)
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lowe, Francis William
Lowther, C. (*Cumb. Eskdale*)
Lowther, Rt. Hon. Jas. (*Kent*)
Lucas, Col. Francis (*Lowestoft*)
Lucas, Reg'ld J. (*Portsmouth*)
Lundon, W.
Lyttelton, Hon. Alfred
Macdona, John Cumming
MacIver, David (*Liverpool*)
M'Iver, Sir Lewis (*Edinburgh, W*
M'Killop, Jas. (*Stirlingshire*)
Manners, Lord Cecil
Martin, Richard Biddulph
Massey-Mainwaring, Hn. W. F.
Melville, Beresford Valentine
Meysey-Thompson, Sir H. M.
Milvain, Thomas
Mitchell, William (*Burnley*)
Montagu, G. (*Huntingdon*)
Montagu, Hon. J. Scott (*Hants*
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
Morgan, D. J. (*Walthamstow*)
Morgan, Hn. F. (*Monm'thsh.*)
Morrell, George Herbert
Morrison, James Archibald
Morton, Arthur H. Aylmer
Mount, William Arthur
Mowbray, Sir Robt. Gray C.
Murray, Rt Hn. A Graham (*Bute*
Murray, Col. Wyndham (*Bath*)
Myers, William Henry
Nolan, Col. John P. (*Galway, N.*)
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
Peel, Hn. Wm. Robert Wellesley
Pemberton, John S. G.
Penn, John
Percy, Earl
Pierpoint, Robert
Pilkington, Colonel Richard
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Plummer, Walter R.
Pretyman, Ernest George
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Pym, C. Guy
Randles, John S.
Rasch, Major Frederick Carne
Reid, James (*Greenock*)
Remnant, Jas. Farquharson
Renshaw, Sir Charles Bine
Ridley, Hn. M. W. (*Stalybridge*)
Ridley, S. F. (*Bethnal Green*)
Ritchie, Rt. Hn. Chas. Thomson
Roberts, Samuel (*Sheffield*)
Rolleston, Sir John F. L.
Rollit, Sir Albert Kaye
Round, Rt. Hon. James
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Rutherford, John (*Lancashire*)
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford-
Sadler, Col. Samuel Alexander
Samuel, Harry S. (*Limehouse*)
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Scott, Sir S. (*Marylebone, W.*)
Seely, Maj. J. E. B. (*Isle of Wight*
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Shaw-Stewart, M. H. (*Renfrew*)
Sinclair, Louis (*Romford*)
Skewes-Cox, Thomas
Smith, Abel H. (*Hertford, East*
Smith, H C (*North'mb. Tyneside*
Smith, James Parker (*Lanarks.*)
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (*Strand*)
Spear, John Ward
Stanley, Hon. A. (*Ormskirk*)
Stanley, Edw. Jas. (*Somerset*)
Stanley, Lord (*Lancs.*)
Stewart, Sir M. J. M'Taggart
Talbot, Rt Hn J. G (*Oxford Univ.*
Taylor, Austin (*East Toxteth*)
Thornton, Percy M.
Tomlinson, Sir Wm. Edw. M.
Tufnell, Lieut.-Col. Edward
Valentia, Viscount
Walker, Col. William Hall
Walrond, Rt. Hn. Sir William H.
Warde, Colonel C. E.
Webb, Col. William George
Welby, Lt.-Col. A. C E (*Taunton*
Welby, Sir Chas. G. E. (*Notts*)
Whiteley, H. (*Ashton-un.-Lyne*
Whitmore, Charles Algernon
Willoughby de Eresby, Lord
Wilson, A. S. (*York, E. R.*)
Wilson, John (*Glasgow*)

Wilson-Todd, Wm. H. (*Yorks.*)
Wodehouse, Rt. Hn. E. R. (*Bath*
Worsley-Taylor, Henry Wilson
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart
Wylie, Alexander
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Wyndham-Quin, Major W. H.
Young, Samuel

Tellers for the Ayes—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Allen, Chas. P. (*Glos., Stroud*)
Asher, Alexander
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Barlow, John Emmott
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Beaumont, Wentworth C. B.
Bolton, Thomas Dolling
Bowles, T. Gibson (*King's Lynn*)
Brand, Hon. Arthur G.
Brigg, John
Broadhurst, Henry
Brown, George M. (*Edinburgh*)
Bryce, Right Hon. James
Burns, John
Burt, Thomas
Buxton, Sydney Charles
Caldwell, James
Cameron, Robert
Channing, Francis Allston
Corbett, A. Cameron (*Glasgow*)
Cremer, William Randal
Davies, Alfred (*Carmarthen*)
Davies, M. Vaughan-(*Cardigan*
Dewar, John A. (*Inverness-sh.*)
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Douglas, Charles M. (*Lanark*)
Duncan, J. Hastings
Dunn, Sir William
Elibank, Master of
Ellis, John Edward
Emmott, Alfred
Evans, Saml. T. (*Glamorgan*)
Farquharson, Dr. Robert
Fenwick, Charles
Ferguson, R. C. Munro (*Leith*
Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmond
Foster, Sir Michael (*Lond Univ.*
Foster, Sir Walter (*Derby Co.*
Fuller, J. M. F.
Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herbert J.
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
Grant, Corrie
Grey, Rt. Hn. Sir E. (*Berwick*
Griffith, Ellis J.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Harmsworth, R. Leicester
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Chas. Seale-
Hayter, Rt. Hon. Sir Arthur D.
Hemphill, Rt. Hon. Charles H.
Hope John Deans (*Fife, West*
Horniman, Frederick John
Humphreys-Owen, Arthur C.
Hutton, Alfred E. (*Morley*)
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jones, David Brynmor (*Swansea*
Kitson, Sir James
Labouchere, Henry
Langley, Batty
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (*Cornwall*)
Leng, Sir John
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, David
Lough, Thomas
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
M'Arthur, William (*Cornwall*
M'Crae, George
M'Kenna, Reginald
M'Laren, Sir Charles Benj.
Mansfield, Horace Rendall
Markham, Arthur Basil
Mitchell, Edw. (*Fermanagh, N.*
Morgan, J. Lloyd (*Carmarthen*)
Moulton, John Fletcher
Newnes, Sir George
Palmer, Sir Charles M. (*Durham*
Partington, Oswald
Paulton, James Mellor
Pearson, Sir Weetman D.
Perks, Robert William
Philipps, John Wynford
Pirie, Duncan V.
Price, Robert John
Priestley, Arthur
Rea, Russell
Rickett, J. Compton
Rigg, Richard
Roberts, John H. (*Denbighs.*)
Robertson, Herbert (*Hackney*)
Robson, William Snowdon
Runciman, Walter
Russell, T. W.
Samuel, Herbt. L. (*Cleveland*)
Shaw, Charles E. (*Stafford*)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair, John (*Forfarshire*)
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Soares, Ernest J.
Spencer, Rt. Hn. C. R. (*Northants*
Strachey, Sir Edward
Taylor, Theodore C. (*Radcliffe*)
Tennant, Harold John
Thomas, Abel (*Carmarthen, E.*)
Thomas, Sir A. (*Glamorgan, E.*
Thomas, David A. (*Merthyr*)
Thomas, F. Freeman-(*Hastings*)
Thomson, F. W. (*York, W. R.*)
Tomkinson, James
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Tritton, Charles Ernest
Wallace, Robert
Walton, Joseph (*Barnsley*)
Warner, Thos. Courtenay T.
Wason, Eugene (*Clackmannan*)
Wason, John Cathcart (*Orkney*)
Weir, James Galloway
White, George (*Norfolk*)
Whiteley, G. (*York, W. R.*)
Whitley, J. H. (*Halifax*)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Williams, O. (*Merioneth*)
Wilson, Chas. H. (*Hull, W.*)
Wilson, F. W. (*Norfolk, Mid*)
Wilson, John (*Durham, Mid*)
Yoxall, James Henry

Tellers for the Noes—Mr. Bond and Sir Frederick Banbury.

Mr. PEEL said the next two Amendments were merely drafting Amendments—viz., to substitute "any" for "each," and to omit "or bodies" in line 9. He begged to move.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

In page 1, line 9, to leave out the word 'each,' and insert the word 'any.'"—(*Mr. Peel.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 1, line 9, to leave out the words 'or bodies.'"—(*Mr. Peel.*)

Question proposed, "That the words 'or bodies' stand part of the Bill."

Mr. YOXALL thought some further explanation of the effect of this Amendment should be made. Did the hon. Member mean to compel all the schools within the area of each Borough Council to be under the control of one body of managers?

Mr. PEEL: Not all the schools under one body.

Mr. YOXALL thought it was a point which required to be made clear, because the words might have the effect of providing that all the provided schools within the area of a Borough Council were to be under one body of managers. If that were the case the danger to which he had adverted earlier in the debate would be even greater than before. He assumed that what was intended was that two or three schools might be under one body, not that all the schools should necessarily be.

*SIR WILLIAM ANSON thought the point was sufficiently provided for by the words to be proposed later on enacting that the manner in which schools should be grouped should be determined by the Borough Council in consultation with the local authority and the Board of Education.

MR. BOUSFIELD (Hackney, N.) pointed out that as a later Amendment contemplated the grouping of schools under one, or more than one, body of managers the words "or bodies" were necessary.

Question put, and agreed to.

MR. PEEL said the object of his next Amendment was to give the utmost elasticity to the arrangements made under the Bill. In some cases it might be necessary to group certain schools together under one body of managers, whilst in other cases the schools might be so large that they must have a body of managers for each school. In other cases still it might be necessary to place a school under more than one body of managers, and this Amendment gave power to take whichever course was deemed desirable. It might be left to the Board of Education to decide which of these courses should be followed.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 1, line 10, to leave out the words 'whose number,' and insert the words 'the number, of those managers and the manner in which schools, in cases where it is desirable, should be grouped under one body of managers or placed under more than one body of managers.'"—(*Mr. Peel.*)

Question proposed, "That the words 'whose number' stand part of the Bill."

DR. MACNAMARA said they had not come to the real issue as to who should determine the number. He understood the proposal to apply to a school large enough to have one body of managers to itself and of course they had a great many bodies which managed more than one school. He desired to move formally an Amendment to the Amendment to leave out the words "or placed under more than one body of managers." The ordinary public elementary school which required more than one body of managers he had not yet come across.

MR. BRYCE said he gathered that this Amendment evidently caused some difficulty. What the hon. Member for Manchester meant was nothing more nor less than that the schools were to be grouped as in the manner prescribed. He thought the case would be met by the insertion of the words "the number of those managers and the extent to which schools should or should not be grouped." The grouping of schools meant putting several schools under the same body of managers, and that was covered by the use of the words he had suggested.

MR. ERNEST GRAY (West Ham, N.) said he understood his hon. friend had in view the possibility of there being a separate body of managers for each department of the school. He should object to the Amendment in its present form because the words were positively dangerous, and they would permit of separate boards of management taking charge of separate departments. He could not imagine anything worse than that the Borough Councils or the local education authority should have separate managers say for the infants and another set for the older children.

MR. BOUSFIELD said he did not think the words of his hon. friend's Amendment bore the interpretation placed upon them by the hon. Member for North Camberwell. He did not think the object of the Amendment was that one school should have more than one board of managers. The question was the manner in which schools should be grouped either under one body or more than one body and he did not refer to any particular school.

MR. WHITLEY said that when the Question before the Chair had been disposed of they would come immediately to the words which it was proposed to insert. The Government seemed to be in some little difficulty, and the Amendment appeared to be one which required re-modelling, and as they were approaching the dinner hour it might be desirable that the Government should have the interval in order to avoid further confusion. During the interval the Government might draw up a simple Amendment, which everybody could understand, to carry out a purpose on which they were all agreed. What they required was that they should have words submitted to them to be inserted before they left out the words "whose number" which would carry out what appeared to be the unanimous wish of the House.

*SIR WILLIAM ANSON said the matter was a very simple one, and the case put forward by his hon. friend was not at all likely to arise. He thought the words suggested by the right hon. Member for Aberdeen would meet all that was required.

MR. YOXALL said the House was not in possession of the words suggested by the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Aberdeen.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE said they appeared to be in a state of confusion on this point. The words proposed to be left out were "whose number," but they could not leave out those words except with the view of inserting something else. If they left those words out it made perfect nonsense, and therefore they were contemplating the insertion of something else. They could not discuss this without having some idea as to what the Government proposed to do. Did they propose to accept the words proposed by the hon. Member for Manchester in substitution of the words proposed to be left out? That involved the principle of grouping, the arrangement of the managers, and matters of that sort. Was that what the Government proposed to do, and did they accept the words of the hon. Member for Manchester as they appeared on the Paper? He had never heard of words being eliminated without knowing what words had been substituted for them. The House of Commons ought to have some guidance.

And, it being half-past Seven of the clock, further consideration of the Bill, as amended, stood adjourned till this evening's sitting.

EVENING SITTING.

LONDON EDUCATION BILL.

As amended, further considered.

Proceedings resumed upon Amendment proposed to the Bill [14th July]—

> "In page 1, line 10, to leave out the words 'whose number,' and insert the words 'the number of those managers and the manner in which schools, in cases where it is desirable, should be grouped under one body of managers or placed under more than one body of managers.'"—(*Mr. Peel.*)

Question again proposed, "That the words 'whose number' stand part of the Bill."

*SIR WILLIAM ANSON suggested that the words "or placed under more than one body of managers" should be omitted from the Amendment.

Question put, and negatived.

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted in the Bill."

Proposed words amended by leaving out the words "or placed under more than one body of managers."—(*Dr. Macnamara.*)

Proposed words, as amended, inserted in the Bill.

DR. MACNAMARA said they had had a number of skirmishes with regard to the way in which they should frame the clause. As regarded the grouping of the schools they now came to the most important question of all, and that was, who should determine the number of managers. The Amendment he proposed to move would make the clause read so far as they had gone in this way: "Shall be determined after consultation with"—leave out the word "by"—"the Council of each Borough"—and then "by the local education authority," so that the number would be determined after consultation with the Borough Councils by the local education authority. As a local authority the Borough Councils had no knowledge of these matters. If, for instance, they asked the Borough Council of Camberwell to name the Board schools in the Borough of Camberwell, they would not be able to do it. It was most pathetic to hear the hon. Baronet talk of exciting the interest of the Borough Councils in this way. The hon. Baronet had evidently no knowledge of these bodies. They could not excite their interest in the way he suggested. What could be done was to leave it in the hands of the London County Council and say—"You shall determine the number, but you ought to consult the Borough Councils." They would have very great difficulty in getting managers in any case. He had to go through the list of the managers of the ten schools in his charge every year, and every year he had to strike out the names of all those who had not made three visits to any school or managers' meeting during the year, and he found the greatest difficulty in finding people to fill their places. With their wider knowledge of the whole of London, surely the local authority were the persons to determine the number, because they were the persons who were in greater touch with those in the West End who would come forward to assist in these matters. He appealed to the hon. Member for South Manchester to accept this Amendment in place of that which he had upon the Paper, which contained the converse proposition, namely, that the number should be determined by the Borough Councils after consultation with the local education authority.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 1, line 10, after the word 'determined,' to insert the words 'after consultation with.'"—(*Dr. Macnamara.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted in the Bill."

Mr. BOUSFIELD said he ventured to think that the proposal of the hon. Member for Camberwell was hardly supported by the arguments which had been used in its favour. The hon. Member had pointed out that the School Board had had great difficulty in keeping up their managers, and that the Borough Councils had taken no interest in any way in the education of their districts. Experience had proved that whenever new powers were given to these local bodies they always had sufficient patriotism to carry them out. He always contended that the greater the functions put upon these bodies the greater would be their interest, and the greater would be the desire to discharge them. This particular Amendment did not seem to him to raise in itself a very important matter, for the Borough Councils and the County Council were not likely to fall out over it; but, so far as the hon. Member's object was to diminish the influence of the Borough Councils, he was opposed to him. It was of the greatest importance to awaken the interest of the local authorities in education within their area, and the more functions they gave them the more they would succeed in that object.

Mr. ERNEST GRAY said the position was not altogether that described by the hon. Member. This was not an Amendment to the Amendment moved, but really an Amendment to the Bill as drafted, because the Bill as drafted said the number of the board of managers was to be determined by each Borough Council, subject only to the approval of the Board of Education. In his judgment, the London County Council, a competent body provided to superintend these schools, should have the paramount voice in this matter. The Borough Councils were not the proper body to provide managers. He would instance the case of the Jewish schools in Whitechapel In that case, certainly, the Borough Council was not the proper body to provide the managers, and it seemed to him that the only authority that could do this properly was the London County Council; that was the authority which ought to have the power, and, if this power were given to it, it would go far to conciliate public opinion in this matter. He strongly appealed to the Government to accept the words proposed by the hon. Member for Camberwell.

Mr. YOXALL said that inch by inch the Borough Council proposals in this Bill were being narrowed down until now it was only suggested that the Borough Councils should take the initiative in providing the Committee of Management for the schools in their areas and nominate the managers of that Committee. He would ask the Secretary to the Board of Education seriously to consider whether it was worth while to persist in the proposal in the Bill as it stood. It would not conciliate the Borough Councils, and it did not satisfy the majority of the London Members. Was it worth while to leave these grains of grit in the machinery? It might be said that friction would not arise, but he thought it was very likely that friction would arise, and if there was the least danger of it the wisdom of the House ought to avert that danger. If there was a principle at stake he could understand the Government standing up for it. But the thing had been so whittled down and had become of so little value to the Borough Councils that there was no principle in it, and yet in itself it was dangerous. He begged the Government not to persist. The Amendment advocated, in his opinion, a very proper change, namely, the transfer of the initiative of these proceedings into the hands of the London County Council. He hoped even now it would be possible for the Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Education to fall in with the general spirit of the House and give the initiative to the local education authority provided they consulted with the Borough Councils.

*MR. COHEN contended that this was not a question of principle but of machinery, but he differed from the hon. Gentleman as to where the initiative should lie. He thought the Bill would work more smoothly if the initiative was with the Borough Councils instead of being with the local education authority, and in support of that contention reverted to the argument of the hon. Member for Camberwell that it was very difficult for the School Board to provide managers. Inasmuch as it was anticipated that the London County Council would be obliged to go, when this difficulty confronted them, to the Borough Councils and ask them to supply the names of ladies and gentlemen who would act as managers, it was only right that the Borough Councils should have the initiative in this matter. He had always been opposed to entrusting the Borough Councils with the large duties which it was at first proposed to place upon them, and he was glad they were not to be given to them. But the duty they were now discussing was certainly not educational. The Borough Councils would have the duty of finding ladies and gentlemen with a certain amount of educational experience who were capable of managing the schools. He would confide that duty to them because it was one demanding a knowledge of the particular localities which could not be possessed by the central authority. He believed they would willingly undertake it, and that they would supply ladies and gentlemen capable of performing the duties of school managers.

SIR MICHAEL FOSTER (London University) said there were two things to be observed in the selection of managers. There was the requisite knowledge, and the requisite judgment which would make that knowledge efficient. He quite sympathised with the Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Education in saying that it was most desirable to excite local interest. He would add that it was most desirable to make use of local knowledge, but that was provided for in the Amendment by the consultation with the Borough Councils. How that knowledge could best be utilised for the educational advantage of London was surely a question for the central authority. He hoped the hon. Baronet would accept this very desirable Amendment.

SIR JOHN GORST said he would strongly add his voice to that of the hon. Member for London University in urging the acceptance of this Amendment. As a matter of practical machinery, it was better to leave the selection of managers to the County Council after consultation with the Borough Councils than to the Borough Councils after consultation with the County Council. In such districts of the East-end as Poplar and Bethnal Green, it was impossible to find persons of leisure to undertake the duties of managers. He did not mean that they could not find people of the highest ability there, but they were all engaged in the struggle for existence, and they had no leisure to devote to the work of school management. The London School Board met the difficulty by reinforcing the East-end managers from the leisured classes of the West-end. It was desirable that that plan should continue, and the County Council, which was in touch with all parts of London, would be able to continue it. But the Government proposed to arrest what was a going concern in order to begin *de novo*. There was no matter of principle involved here. It was a matter of practical statesmanship and machinery, and he thought it would be better to adopt the Amendment.

MR. BRYCE said the speeches to which the House had been listening were useful and practical, but they had not been directed to the Amendment, which referred entirely to the question of number and not to the question who was to appoint the managers. The grouping of schools need not be confined within each borough, and therefore that was a question for the local education authority.

MR. BOND said it was not a question whether the number of managers should be determined by the local education authority or the Borough Councils, though, of course, that was the issue raised by the Amendment. Assuming that the proposal of the hon. Member for Camberwell was accepted as to the number, what he asked was that it should be determined after consultation with the Borough Councils. If the Borough Councils were, as had been represented, in a state of blissful ignorance in regard to educational matters, why consult them at all? It would only introduce a fiddling method of proceeding which the House should be anxious to avoid. He could not vote for the Amendment.

*SIR WILLIAM ANSON said everybody who had spoken had stated that this was not a matter of principle, and that it would be comparatively unimportant in practice, yet it had given rise to a long discussion. It was said that they were derogating from the local education authority. The local education authority retained absolute control, but an initiative was given to the Borough Councils which it was very desirable they should have. It was said there was nothing in the Government's proposal to conciliate the boroughs. He did not care whether there was anything specially calculated to conciliate the boroughs. If the boroughs had the duty thrown upon them they must consider the requirements of the schools in the area. It was said they were ignorant and knew nothing of the needs of the area. The hon. Member for Islington was never tired of dwelling on the educational incapacity of the Islington Borough Council. He supposed that to those who formed the School Board at first the needs of the different areas were matters of obscurity. He took it also that the County Councils, which had taken up technical education of late years, were not generally familiar with the matter when the duty was first thrust upon them, but he did not know it had ever been suggested that because they had nothing to do with education up to that date they were therefore incapable of doing the work. He believed the Borough Councils were perfectly capable of doing the work with which it was proposed to entrust them. If they were ignorant they would not be worth consulting; if they were capable they would be capable of taking the initiative of determining the number of managers necessary or desirable for their schools. The matter of the selection of managers was not before the House at present. When the proper time came he might have something to say in reply to the arguments of the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Cambridge University. What they had to consider now was whether, in the matter of the number of managers desirable for the different schools and the general arrangement of their duties, the local education authority should consult the Borough Councils or the Borough Councils should consult the local education authority. He thought it exceedingly important that the Government should give the proposed powers to the different boroughs, because the London schools were most of them quite large enough to stand alone. The necessity of grouping was chiefly a necessity in scattered rural areas where managers were hard to find. But the real point was, that if they were to give to the boroughs an interest in the matter of management they must give them initiative. If they were required to wait until the County Council came to consult them the consultation would probably have no result whatever. He hoped they would be able to excite the interest of the Borough Councils in educational work, and that they would play a good part in the education of London.

MR. WHITLEY asked what the word 'determined' in the clause meant if it did not mean that the power of fixing the number of managers lay with each Borough Council. It was not a question of mere initiative. The action of the Borough Council in this matter was to be "subject to the approval of the Board of Education," but if they passed the words "shall be determined by the council of each borough," were they not giving the real control into the hands of the Borough Council? A Borough Council might make up its mind, and then make the consultation with the County Council a farce. A much more important question than that of the number of managers was the question of grouping.

MR. SPEAKER said he did not see what this Amendment had to do with the question of grouping. That would arise on a subsequent Amendment. There had already been a general discussion on the first Amendment, but to have a general debate on every particular Amendment would be extremely inconvenient.

MR. ERNEST GRAY pointed out that the words which were moved a few minutes ago were now in the clause, and, therefore, the question they were discussing was that the number of managers and the manner of grouping "shall be determined by the council of each borough."

MR. SPEAKER ruled that the hon. Member would not be in order in discussing the question of grouping.

MR. WHITLEY said he would not pursue the subject further. He thought that the proposal of the hon. Member for Camberwell was, from the point of view of education, immensely superior to that supported by the hon. Baronet who represented the Government.

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 86; Noes, 144. (Division List, No. 160.)

AYES.

Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Bolton, Thomas Dolling
Brigg, John
Broadhurst, Henry
Brown, George M. (*Edinburgh*)
Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
Burns, John
Burt, Thomas
Buxton, Sydney Charles
Caldwell, James
Cameron, Robert
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H
Cawley, Frederick
Cremer, William Randal
Davies, Alfred (*Carmarthen*)
Dewar, John A. (*Inverness-sh.*)
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Dillon, John
Douglas, Charles M. (*Lanark*)
Duncan, J. Hastings
Edwards, Frank
Elibank, Master of
Emmott, Alfred
Evans, Saml. T. (*Glamorgan*)
Fenwick, Charles
Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmond
Foster, Sir Michl. (*Lond. Univ*
Furness, Sir Christopher
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir J. Eldon
Gray, Ernest (*West Ham*)
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Charles Seale-
Hemphill, Rt. Hn. Charles H.
Hope, John Deans (*Fife, West*
Horniman, Frederick John
Jones, William (*Carnarvonshire*
Kenyon, Hon. G. T. (*Denbigh*
Kitson, Sir James
Langley, Batty
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (*Cornwall*)
Leng, Sir John
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
M'Arthur, William (*Cornwall*)
M'Laren, Sir Charles Benjamin
Mansfield, Horace Rendall
Mitchell, Edw. (*Fermanagh, N.*
Morgan, J. Lloyd (*Carmarthen*)
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, Conor (*Mayo, N.*)
Partington, Oswald
Perks, Robert William
Philipps, John Wynford
Price, Robert John
Priestley, Arthur
Rea, Russell
Rickett, J. Compton
Rigg, Richard
Roberts, John H. (*Denbighs.*)
Robertson, Herbert (*Hackney*
Roche, John
Roe, Sir Thomas
Runciman, Walter
Russell, T. W.
Samuel, Herbert L. (*Cleveland*)
Shaw, Charles E. (*Stafford*)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair, John (*Forfarshire*)
Soares, Ernest J.
Taylor, Theodore C. (*Radcliffe*)
Thomas, David Alfred (*Merthyr*
Thomson, F. W. (*York, W.R.*)
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Tritton, Charles Ernest
Warner, Thos. Courtenay T.
Weir, James Galloway
Whiteley, George (*York, W.R.*)
Whitley, J. H. (*Halifax*)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Williams, O. (*Merioneth*)
Wilson, F.W. (*Norfolk, Mid*)
Wilson, John (*Durham Mid.*)
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Dr. Macnamara and Mr. George White.

NOES.

Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Arrol, Sir William
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Aubrey-Fletcher, Rt. Hn. Sir H.
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (*Manch'r*
Balfour, Rt. Hn. G. W. (*Leeds*
Balfour, Kenneth R. (*Christch.*
Bill, Charles
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bond, Edward
Bousfield, William Robert
Bowles, Lt.-Col. H. F (*Middlesex*
Brassey, Albert
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Bull, William James
Butcher, John George
Cautley, Henry Strother
Cavendish, R. F. (*N. Lancs.*)
Cavendish, V. C. W. (*Derbyshire*
Cayzer, Sir Charles William
Chapman, Edward
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colomb, Sir John Charles Ready
Colston, Chas. Edw H. Athole
Cook, Sir Frederick Lucas
Cox, Irwin Edward Bainbridge
Cranborne, Viscount
Cripps, Charles Alfred
Cross, Alexander (*Glasgow*)
Cross, Herb. Shepherd (*Bolton*)
Crossley, Rt. Hon. Sir Savile
Denny, Colonel
Doughty, George
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Doxford, Sir Wm. Theodore
Duke, Henry Edward
Faber, George Denison (*York*)
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
Fergusson, Rt. Hn Sir J. (*Manc'r*
Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Fisher, William Hayes
FitzGerald, Sir Robert Penrose-
Flower, Ernest
Forster, Henry William
Fyler, John Arthur
Galloway, William Johnson
Gordon, Hn. J. E. (*Elgin & Nrn*
Graham, Henry Robert
Greene, Sir E. W. (*Bury St. Ed.*
Greene, Henry D. (*Shrewsbury*)
Groves, James Grimble
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Hain, Edward
Hamilton, Rt Hn Lord G. (*Mid'x*
Hardy, Laurence (*Kent, Ashfd*
Harris, Frederick Leverton
Haslam, Sir Alfred S.
Heath, James (*Staffords., N. W.*
Helder, Augustus
Henderson, Sir Alexander
Hickman, Sir Alfred
Howard, Jno (*Kent, Faver'hm*
Jeffreys, Rt. Hon. Arthur Fred.
Jessel, Capt. Herbert Merton
Kenyon-Slaney, Col. W. (*Salop.*
Kerr, John
Keswick, William
Law, Andrew Bonar (*Glasgow*
Lawson, J. Grant (*Yorks., N. R.*)
Leveson-Gower, Frederick N. S.
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Long, Rt. Hn. W. (*Bristol, S.*
Lowther, Rt. Hon. Jas. (*Kent*)
Lucas, Reginald J. (*Portsmouth*)
Macdona, John Cumming
M'Arthur, Charles (*Liverpool*)
M'Iver, Sir Lewis (*Edinburgh W*
M'Killop, Jas. (*Stirlingshire*)
Manners, Lord Cecil
Milvain, Thomas
Mitchell, William (*Burnley*)
Morgan, D. J. (*Walthamstow*)
Morrell, George Herbert
Morrison, James Archibald
Morton, Arthur H. Aylmer
Mount, William Arthur
Murray, Rt Hn A. Graham (*Bute*
Myers, William Henry
Nolan, Col. John P. (*Galway, N.*
Orr-Ewing, Charles Lindsay
Peel, Hn Wm. Robert Wellesley
Percy, Earl
Pilkington, Col. Richard
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Plummer, Walter R.
Pretyman, Ernest George
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Randles, John S.
Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
Reid, James (*Greenock*)
Renshaw, Sir Charles Bine
Renwick, George
Ridley, S. F. (*Bethnal Green*)
Ritchie, Rt. Hn. C. Thomson
Roberts, Samuel (*Sheffield*)
Rutherford, John (*Lancashire*)
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford-
Sadler, Col. Saml. Alexander
Scott, Sir S. (*Marylebone, W.*)
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Sinclair, Louis (*Romford*)
Skewes-Cox, Thomas
Smith, Abel H. (*Hertford, E.*)
Smith, HC (*North'mb. Tyneside*
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (*Strand*)
Spear, John Ward
Stanley, Lord (*Lancs.*)
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Taylor, Austin (*East Toxteth*
Thornton, Percy M.
Tollemache, Henry James
Tomlinson, Sir Wm. Edw. M.
Valentia, Viscount
Walrond, Rt. Hn. Sir William H
Walton, Joseph (*Barnsley*)
Webb, Col. William George
Welby, Lt-Col. A. C. E (*Taunton*
Welby, Sir Charles G. E. (*Notts.*)
Whiteley, H. (*Ashton-u.-Lyne*)
Willox, Sir John Archibald
Wilson, A. S. (*York, E. R.*)
Wilson, John (*Falkirk*)
Wilson-Todd, Wm. H. (*Yorks.*)
Wodehouse, Rt. Hn. E. R. *Bath*)
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Young, Samuel

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Mr. Anstruther.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON moved—

"In Clause 2, page 1, lines 10 and 11, leave out 'council of each borough,' and insert 'local education authority.'"

The object of this Amendment, he said, was to raise the clear issue whether the Borough Councils should be brought in in the matter of determining the number of managers, or whether the number of managers should be determined by the local education authority. The Amendment proposed that the matter should be left to the local education authority.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 1, line 10, to leave out the words 'council of each borough,' and insert the words 'local education authority.'"—(*Mr. Sydney Buxton.*)

Question proposed, "That the words 'council of' stand part of the Bill."

*SIR WILLIAM ANSON said the question had already been argued at length. He therefore proposed to say no more than that the Government could not accept the Amendment.

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 158; Noes, 100. (Division List, No. 161.)

AYES.

Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Arrol, Sir William
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Aubrey-Fletcher, Rt. Hn. Sir H.
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (*Manch'r*
Balfour, Rt. Hn. G. W. (*Leeds*
Balfour, Kenneth R. (*Christch*
Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.
Bill, Charles
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bousfield, William Robert
Bowles, Lt.-Col. H. F. (*Midd'x*)
Brassey, Albert
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Bull, William James
Butcher, John George
Cautley, Henry Strother
Cavendish, R. F. (*N. Lancs.*)
Cavendish, V C W (*Derbysh.*)
Cayzer, Sir Charles William
Chapman, Edward
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colomb, Sir John Chas. Ready
Colston, Chas. Edw H. Athole
Cook, Sir Frederick Lucas
Cox, Irwin Edwd. Bainbridge
Cranborne, Viscount
Cripps, Charles Alfred
Cross, Alexander (*Glasgow*)
Cross, H. Shepherd (*Bolton*)
Crossley, Rt. Hon. Sir Savile
Denny, Colonel
Devlin, Chas. Ramsay (*Galway*)
Doughty, George
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers
Doxford, Sir Wm. Theodore
Duke, Henry Edward
Dyke, Rt. Hon. Sir Wm. Hart
Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas
Faber, E. B. (*Hants, W.*)
Faber, George Denison (*York*)
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Ed.
Fergusson, Rt Hn. Sir J. (*Man'r*
Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
FitzGerald, Sir Robt. Penrose
Flower, Ernest
Forster, Henry William
Fyler, John Arthur
Galloway, William Johnson
Gordon, Hn. J. E (*Elgin&Nairn*
Gore, Hn G. R. C. Ormsby- (*Salop*
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Graham, Henry Robert
Greene, Sir E. W. (*Bury St. Ed.*
Greene, Hy. D. (*Shrewsbury*)
Groves, James Grimble
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Hamilton, Rt Hn Ld. G. (*Midx*
Hardy, Laurence (*Kent, Ashf'd*
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Harris, Frederick Leverton
Haslam, Sir Alfred S.
Heath, James (*Staffs. N. W.*)
Helder, Augustus
Henderson, Sir Alexander
Hickman, Sir Alfred
Hoult, Joseph
Howard, Jno. (*Kent, Faversham*
Jeffreys, Rt. Hn. Arthur Fred
Kenyon, Hon. G. T. (*Denbigh*
Kenyon-Slaney, Col. W. (*Salop*
Kerr, John
Keswick, William
Law, Andrew Bonar (*Glasgow*
Lawson, John Grant (*Yorks, NR*
Leveson-Gower, Frederick N. S.
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (*Bristol, S*
Lowe, Francis William
Lowther, Rt. Hon. Jas. (*Kent*)
Lucas, Reginald J (*Portsmouth*)
Macdona, John Cumming
M'Arthur, Charles (*Liverpool*)
M'Iver, Sir Lewis (*Edinburgh W*
M'Killop, Jas. (*Stirlingshire*)
Manners, Lord Cecil
Milvain, Thomas
Mitchell, William (*Burnley*)
Morgan, D. J. (*Walthamstow*)
Morrell, George Herbert
Morrison, James Archibald
Morton, Arthur H. Aylmer
Mount, William Arthur
Murray, Rt. Hn A. Graham (*Bute*
Murray, Chas. J. (*Coventry*)
Myers, William Henry
Nolan, Col. John P. (*Galway, N.*
Orr-Ewing, Charles Lindsay
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Peel, Hn. Wm. R. Wellesley
Percy, Earl
Pilkington, Colonel Richard
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Plummer, Walter R.
Pretyman, Ernest George
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Randles, John S.
Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
Reid, James (*Greenock*)
Renshaw, Sir Charles Bine
Renwick, George
Ridley, S. F. (*Bethnal Green*)
Ritchie, Rt. Hn. C. Thomson
Roberts, Samuel (*Sheffield*)
Rutherford, John (*Lancashire*
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford
Sadler, Col. Samuel Alexander
Scott, Sir S. (*Marylebone, W.*)
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Simeon, Sir Barrington
Sinclair, Louis (*Romford*)
Skewes-Cox, Thomas
Smith, Abel H. (*Hertford, E.*)
Smith, H. C (*North'mb. Tyneside*
Smith, James Parker (*Lanarks.*
Smith, Hn. W. F. D. (*Strand*)
Spear, John Ward
Stanley, Edw. Jas. (*Somerset*)
Stanley, Lord (*Lancs.*)
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Taylor, Austin (*East Toxteth*)
Thornton, Percy M.
Tollemache, Henry James
Tomlinson, Sir Wm. Edw. M.
Valentia, Viscount
Walrond, Rt. Hon. Sir W. H.
Webb, Colonel William George
Welby, Lt.-Col. A. C. E (*Taunt'n*
Welby, Sir Chas. G. E. (*Notts*)
Whiteley, H. (*Ashton-u.-Lyne*)
Willox, Sir John Archibald
Wilson, A. Stanley (*York, E. R*
Wilson, John (*Falkirk*)
Wilson-Todd, W. H. (*Yorks.*)
Wodehouse, Rt. Hn. E. R. (*Bath*
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Young, Samuel

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Ashton, Thomas Gair
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Beaumont, Wentworth C. B.
Bolton, Thomas Dolling
Bond, Edward
Brigg, John
Broadhurst, Henry
Brown, George M. (*Edinburgh*
Bryce, Right Hon. James
Burns, John
Burt, Thomas
Buxton, Sydney Charles
Caldwell, James
Cameron, Robert
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Cawley, Frederick
Cremer, William Randal
Davies, Alfred (*Carmarthen*)
Dewar, John A. (*Inverness-shire*
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Dillon, John
Doogan, P. C.
Douglas, Charles M. (*Lanark*)
Duncan J. Hastings
Edwards, Frank
Elibank, Master of
Emmott, Alfred
Evans, Samuel T. (*Glamorgan*)
Fenwick, Charles
Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmund
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Foster, Sir Michl. (*Lond. Univ*
Furness, Sir Christopher
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
Gray, Ernest (*West Ham*)
Griffith, Ellis J.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton

Hemphill, Rt. Hon. Charles H.
Hope, John Deans (*Fife, West*
Horniman, Frederick John
Jones, Wm. (*Carnarvonshire*)
Kilbride, Denis
Kitson, Sir James
Langley, Batty
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (*Cornwall*)
Leng, Sir John
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, David
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
M'Crae, George
M'Laren, Sir Charles Benj.
Mansfield, Horace Rendall
Morgan, J. Lloyd (*Carmarthen*
O'Brien, P. J. (*Tipperary, N.*)
O'Donnell, T. (*Kerry, W.*)
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, Conor (*Mayo, N.*)
Partington Oswald
Paulton, James Mellor
Perks, Robert William
Philipps, John Wynford
Price, Robert John
Priestley, Arthur
Rea, Russell
Rickett, J. Compton
Rigg, Richard
Roberts, John H. (*Denbighs.*)
Robertson, Herbert (*Hackney*)
Roche, John
Roe, Sir Thomas
Runciman, Walter
Russell, T. W.
Samuel, Herbt. L. (*Cleveland*)
Shaw, Charles Edw. (*Stafford*)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair, John (*Forfarshire*)
Soares, Ernest J.
Taylor, Theodore C. (*Radcliffe*)
Thomas, Sir A. (*Glam., E.*)
Thomas, David A. (*Merthyr*)
Thomas, F. Freeman (*Hastings*
Thomson, F. W. (*York, W. R.*)
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Tritton, Charles Ernest
Walton, Joseph (*Barnsley*)
Warner, Thos. Courtenay T.
Wason, John Cathcart (*Orkney*
Weir, James Galloway
White, George (*Norfolk*)
Whiteley, G. (*York, W. R.*)
Whitley, J. H. (*Halifax*)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Williams, O. (*Merioneth*)
Wilson, F.W. (*Norfolk, Mid*)
Wilson, John (*Durham, Mid*)
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. William M'Arthur and Mr. Spencer.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 1, line 11, after the word 'borough' to insert the words 'after consultation with the local education authority and.'"—(*Mr. Peel.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 1, line 12, to leave out the words 'Provided that.'"—(*Mr. Peel.*)

Amendment agreed to.

DR. MACNAMARA said the Amendment he wished next to move dealt with the proportion of managers to be nominated by the Borough Councils. The Bill as it stood provided that three-fourths should be so nominated, and his proposal was to secure that only one-third should be selected by the minor authority, and two-thirds by the major body. This was an important point, because the Prime Minister and the Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Education had again and again said that they desired that the County Council should have supreme control in their scheme of municipalisation, just the same as other municipal authorities throughout the country, and if the Government were sincere in this desire the least they could do was to give the authority the same amount of representation as was contained in last year's Act. He feared that the Borough Councils would feel a good deal of irritation against the Government in respect of this measure. At the outset they were offered lots of things which none of them asked for, and all had since been withdrawn. It might be they would desire to appoint their proportion of the members from their own body. There was a certain amount of patronage in connection with the management of elementary schools in London. The management, for instance, had the entire appointment of assistant teachers, and the final selection for the head teachership from three names sent down to choose from. Apart from their zeal for education, therefore, he could well understand that the borough councillors would be anxious to serve personally, so as to have a share of the patronage attaching to the office. This might produce conflicts with the County Council, which was nominally supreme. If the borough councillors themselves constituted three-fourths of the managing body, a large number of the existing managers would have to be got rid of. All were agreed that those managers were doing admirable work, and it certainly would be a great pity to lose their services. He understood that the Parliamentary Secretary did not want to bring that about, but the temptation to the borough councillors to elect themselves would be very great. He did not mean to suggest that they would exercise their powers of patronage unworthily. The Government had refused to give them special treatment for London, and had said they must accept last year's Act. What did that Act say in this respect? It said that as regarded urban districts the local authority need not have any managers at all, but if any were appointed four should be chosen by the major authority—the council of the county—and two only by the minor authority—the urban district council. Why was that scheme to be departed from in the case of London? According to the Act of last year the Borough Councils should only appoint one-third instead of three-fourths of the managers. If the County Council was to be really supreme, it should be supreme in regard to these nominations. He had been looking through the list of managers in London, and he doubted very much if the Borough Councillors would be able to find a sufficient number of persons to act. Take the case of Stepney. Many of the existing managers were drawn from the West-end of London, but if the choice was to be confined to the borough he was convinced it would not be possible to find nine managers for each separate school.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 1, line 12, to leave out the words 'three-fourths,' and insert the words 'one-third.'"—(*Dr. Macnamara.*)

Question proposed, "That the words three-fourths stand part of the Bill."

MR. W. F. D. SMITH (Strand, Westminster) said the House must be weary of discussing the comparative merits of the County Council and Borough Councils. He could not agree with the hon. Member for Camberwell that the London boroughs should be looked on in the same light as the urban district councils, neither did he believe they would necessarily limit their choice to residents of local areas. People in the East-end of London would still be able to have the assistance of those from the West-end, and under the Amendment standing in the name of the hon. Member for Manchester the present managers would get due representation on the new Board. It must be clear to everybody that, although the Borough Councils would have a majority of the members, as a matter of fact they would be powerless to interfere with or run counter to the policy of the local education authority. But he thought the figures as they stood were rather extreme, and he hoped that the hon. Gentleman in charge of the Bill would see his way to modify them by giving two-thirds instead of three-fourths to the Borough Councils. If opportunity offered he would himself propose an Amendment to that effect.

MR. ERNEST GRAY said he was anxious not to delay the Bill unnecessarily, but the Amendment before the House was one of considerable importance. Steadily step by step the House was forging the chain of control from the County Council authority downwards. In the Bill as originally presented the chain was broken in the constitution of the Committee and in the establishment of boards of management, but the House itself, with the Government very reluctantly acquiescing, had established the first principles of the control of the County Council over its own Committee, following upon the control of the Committee over the schools in the several boroughs. Now he was anxious to complete that chain of control. A large amount of detail work would undoubtedly have to be delegated to the managers of the schools, but the Education Committee would never consent to delegate powers to a body over which they were not able to exercise control. If the provision in the Bill was retained he believed the County Council would refuse to delegate this detail work, because the Education Committee could have no confidence in boards of management so constituted. They had repeatedly been told that the County Council must have full confidence in the managers, but how could it have such confidence under an arrangement like this. He hoped that before the debate closed the House would agree to provide that one-half of the managers should be appointed by the County Council and one-half by the Borough Councils. That would be a reasonable Amendment. He was anxious to enlist the services of women, and he thought the County Council would be more likely to appoint women than the Borough Councils would be. He agreed with the argument that the Borough Councils would be strongly tempted to elect their own members as managers. They would forget that two-thirds of the children in the schools were either children of tender years or girls, and that therefore it was most desirable to appoint women as managers. It was useless, perhaps, to appeal to the hon. Gentleman in charge of the Bill, but he would appeal to hon. Members on this question to try and disregard Party pressure, and to arrive at a decision in the interests of the schools in this effort to complete the chain of control. The thing once done would not be undone for many years to come, and in the interim much mischief might be perpetrated. The schools were now being placed under an entirely new system, a great experiment was being entered upon, and he appealed to those who wished to see the education given in the Metropolis equal, if not superior, to anything in the Empire to give the County Council a paramount voice in the selection of boards of managers for each school or group of schools. Personally he would support the omission of the words "two-thirds" in the hope that later on one-half would be substituted.

LORD EDMUND FITZMAURICE (Wiltshire, Cricklade) said it was scarcely necessary to do more than move the Amendment, because of the arguments that had already been put so forcibly in its favour. He hoped the Government would facilitate the proceedings by at once announcing that they would consent to the Motion, and thus obtain an equality of representation.

*SIR WILLIAM ANSON thought hon. Members had forgotten to look at the schedule in the Act of last year, which prescribed the powers of the Committees of Managers to deal with matters relating to the management, but subject to such conditions and restrictions as should be suggested by the local education authority. He hoped, having provided that those bodies should be brought into consultation with one another, that the consultations would bring about such an interchange of opinion as would enable the selection of the boroughs to command the confidence of the local education authority. He bore in mind what had been said as to the difficulty of getting managers experienced by the School Board. Surely they might draw from that the lesson that they would lighten the heavy burden of the local education authority, and, to some extent, obviate the difficulty experienced by the School Board if they required the Borough Councils to find the larger proportion of the board of managers. He confessed that unless precautions were taken to ensure the presence of women on the board of managers, as well as the presence of former managers, he should hesitate to entrust the boroughs with this large proportion, but, as it was, he wanted to retain the best of the old, and, at the same time, strike a new vein by giving the boroughs the larger number. He quite agreed, however, with the hon. Member for the Strand Division that three-fourths was a large proportion, and, besides, it was somewhat inconvenient arithmetically. Bodies of six, nine, twelve, and fifteen were easier to be sub divided than were those of four, eight, twelve, and sixteen. Therefore, although he could not go to the length suggested by the hon. Member for West Ham, and accept the proposal to give one-half, he should be quite prepared to accept the proportion of two-thirds nominated by the Borough Councils, and one-third by the County Council.

MR. BRYCE could not follow the arithmetical argument of the hon. Baronet that it was easier to divide by three than by two. He should have thought that if the Government was willing to depart from the three-fourths proportion they might have accepted one-half. Surely sufficient opinion had been expressed on the Government side to make it clear that the House would be content with one-half. They were willing to withdraw further objection to the scheme if the principle of equality were agreed to, and that proportion would be most in accord with the general feeling of the House, whilst no slur would be cast on either council.

*MR. BOND called attention to what had taken place earlier in the Bill, when it was proposed to mak the London County Council the local education authority. As to the possibility of that Council undertaking, in addition to its other duties, the vast work of the School Board, and controlling the voluntary and elementary schools of London, the fears then expressed were mitigated by the suggestion that there must be a certain amount of delegation. It was said that the London School Board did not delegate sufficiently, and that the new authority ought to do more in that direction than the School Board had done in the past. How could it delegate powers if the Committee contained two-thirds whom it did not appoint? Then it had been suggested that the powers of managers were but trifling in importance, but could it be contended that the appointment and control of the teachers was a trifling matter. He could not help thinking that unless there was a majority appointed by the local education authority, the work of the central education authority as regarded the management of elementary schools, instead of being made less would be greater, so much so, in fact, as to entail a risk of the machine breaking down under the pressure. Every consideration pointed in the direction of giving a considerable majority to the nominees of the local education authority upon the boards, but he thought it was quite possible that if a large majority of these managers were appointed by the Borough Councils, the borough councillors might be tempted to go upon these governing bodies—a step that would not conduce to the interests of education. The hon. Member for Camberwell had drawn attention to the Act of last year, and said if they followed that precedent they would have two-thirds appointed by the central authority and one-third by the local authority. In the small towns, dealt with by last year's Act, people knew each other, and those selected to act were recognised as the right people to undertake the business, but in large boroughs, like Camberwell or Paddington, where there were an enormous number of schools to be managed, it was not so likely that the really right people would be picked out. If it was desirable in the case of rural councils to give two-thirds to the central authority and only one-third to the local authority, then *à fortiori* it was much more right to give the larger nominations to the central authority in London. He hoped that the Amendment would be accepted, and if they could not get that they must get something as near to it as possible.

MR. BOUSFIELD ventured to think that in making the concession the Government had gone as far as they ought in the direction desired by the hon. Member for Camberwell. The difference in the policies advocated was that they desired the Borough Councils to take as much interest as possible in education, and for that reason they thought it right that they should have some real power, without which they would take no real interest. They did not want to carry control into every detail of administration. So far as real control over policy was concerned, the County Council had absolute and ample control. They on that side of the House who had advocated the Borough Councils having some power, had desired that the County Councils should have the real controlling power as regarded the policy of Education in London, and they had got that. If the management did not carry out the policy of the County Council the latter had the power to alter it on vital matters of administration, but he submitted that the paramount consideration was not that the County Council should be able to carry its control into the very smallest details of administration, but that they should have a body of men engaged in the work of education that knew something about it and were devoted to it. From that point of view some increase of interest and power in the Borough Councils was absolutely necessary to create a race of men willing and capable to take upon themselves those administrative duties. What they wanted were men in every district interested in the education of their locality. The Government had now suggested a modification of two-thirds nominated by the Borough Councils and one-third by the County Councils. That meant that as far as possible two-thirds would be inhabitants of the borough. It had been suggested that they would probably be borough councillors, but he did not think that was likely, because he knew how heavy the duties of those gentlemen were already, and he could not imagine that they would take upon themselves these additional duties. Under the proportions proposed, they would have two-thirds of the managers chosen by the locality, and one third from outside. He hoped the Government would adhere to the compromise that they had suggested.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON said he rose for the purpose of making a further appeal to the Government. It was quite clear from what had occurred that afternoon and evening, and especially with regard to that Amendment, that there was a very strong feeling, certainly among the majority of Members, that the County Council, as the local authority, ought to have supreme authority in this matter. No reason had been given why the Government should depart from their Bill of last year, which gave a substantial majority to the local authority. The proposal that in regard to the local authority the counties should be in a minority on the boards of managers was resisted by the Leader of the House last year, when he said that the County Council was to be the supreme authority in all matters of education, and, that being so, it was only reasonable to give them the majority on the boards of managers. It would be extremely foolish after deciding that the County Council was to be the supreme authority, to hand the majority over to the local body. He (Mr. Buxton) could not see how the Government could resist a proposal they themselves adopted last year in regard to this matter. He hoped the hon Baronet, in order to meet the feeling which was not confined to any one quarter of the House, would carry this matter out on the lines of the Act of last year.

Mr. LOUGH suggested that as the hon. Baronet had intimated his willingness to make a concession, the point should be settled at one-half.

Dr. MACNAMARA asked leave to withdraw his proposal in order that the substitution of "one-half" might be moved, the latter proportion appearing to carry more favour. ("No.") Then he would take the "one-third" to a division.

Question put, and negatived.

Question put, "That the words 'one-third' be there inserted."

The House divided:—Ayes, 110; Noes, 172. (Division List No. 162.)

AYES.

Asher, Alexander
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Asquith, Rt. Hon. Herbt. Hy.
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Beaumont, Wentworth C. B.
Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.
Bolton, Thomas Dolling
Bond, Edward
Brigg, John
Broadhurst, Henry
Brown, George M. (*Edinburgh*)
Bryce, Right Hon. James
Buxton, Sydney Charles
Caldwell, James
Cameron, Robert
Causton, Richard Knight
Cawley, Frederick
Cremer, William Randal
Crooks, William
Dewar, John A. (*Inverness-sh.*)
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Dillon, John
Doogan, P. C.
Doughty, George
Douglas, Charles M. (*Lanark*)
Duncan, J. Hastings
Elibank, Master of
Emmott, Alfred
Fenwick, Charles
Ferguson, R. C. Munro (*Leith*)
Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmund
Foster, Sir Michl. (*Lond. Univ*
Foster, Sir Walter (*Derby Co.*)
Fuller, J. M. F.
Furness, Sir Christopher
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir J. Eldon
Gray, Ernest (*West Ham*)
Grey, Rt. Hon. Sir E. (*Berwick*)
Griffith, Ellis J.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Hardie, J. Keir (*Merthyr Tyd*
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Chas. Seale-
Hayter, Rt Hon Sir Arthur D.
Hemphill, Rt. Hon. Charles H.
Hobhouse, Rt Hn H (*Somerset, E*
Hope, John Deans (*Fife, West*)
Horniman, Frederick John
Jones, William (*Carnarvonshre*
Kitson, Sir James
Labouchere, Henry
Langley, Batty
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (*Cornwall*)
Leigh, Sir Joseph
Leng, Sir John
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, David
Lough, Thomas
M'Arthur, Wiliam (*Cornwall*)
M'Crae, George
M'Laren, Sir Charles Benj.
Mansfield, Horace Rendall
Markham, Arthur Basil
Morgan, D. J. (*Walthamstow*)
Morgan, J. Lloyd (*Carmarthen*
Moulton, John Fletcher
Partington, Oswald
Paulton, James Mellor
Perks, Robert William
Philipps, John Wynford
Pirie, Duncan V.
Price, Robert John
Priestley, Arthur
Rea, Russell
Rickett, J. Compton
Rigg, Richard
Roberts, John H. (*Denbighs.*)
Robertson, H. (*Hackney*)
Roe, Sir Thomas
Runciman, Walter
Russell, T. W.
Samuel, Herbt. L. (*Cleveland*)
Shaw, Charles E. (*Stafford*)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair, John (*Forfarshire*)
Smith, H. C (*North'mb. Tyneside*
Soares, Ernest J.
Spencer, Rt. Hn. C. R (*Northants*
Taylor, Austin (*East Toxteth*)
Taylor, Theodore C. (*Radcliffe*)
Tennant, Harold John
Thomas, Sir A. (*Glamorgan, E.*)
Thomas, David Alfred (*Merthyr*
Thomas, F. Freeman (*Hastings*)
Thomson, F. W. (*York, W. R.*)
Tomkinson, James
Toulmin, George
Tritton, Charles Ernest
Wason, E. (*Clackmannan*)
Weir, James Galloway
Whitley, J. H. (*Halifax*)
Williams, O. (*Merioneth*)
Wilson, F. W. (*Norfolk, Mid*)
Wilson, John (*Durham, Mid*)
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart
Yoxall, James Henry

Tellers for the Ayes—Dr. Macnamara and Mr. George White.

NOES

Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Arrol, Sir William
Atkinson, Right Hon. John
Aubrey-Fletcher, Rt. Hn. Sir H.
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J. (*Man'r*
Balfour, Rt Hn Gerald W. (*Leeds*
Balfour, Kenneth R. (*Christch.*
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bill, Charles
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bousfield, William Robert
Bowles, Lt.-Col. H. F. (*Midd'x*)
Brassey, Albert
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Bull, William James
Butcher, John George

Cautley, Henry Strother
Cavendish, R. F. (*N. Lancs.*)
Cavendish, V. C. W. (*Derbysh.*)
Cayzer, Sir Charles William
Cecil, Evelyn (*Aston Manor*)
Chamberlain, Rt Hon J (*Birm*
Chapman, Edward
Clive, Captain Percy A.
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Collings, Right Hon. Jesse
Colomb, Sir John Chas. Ready
Colston, Chas. Edw H. Athole
Compton, Lord Alwyne
Cox, Irwin Edward Bainbridge
Cranborne, Viscount
Cripps, Charles Alfred
Cross, Alexander (*Glasgow*)
Cross, H. Shepherd (*Bolton*)
Crossley, Rt. Hon. Sir Savile
Dalkeith, Earl of
Denny, Colonel
Devlin, Chas. Ramsay (*Galway*)
Dimsdale, Rt. Hn. Sir Joseph C.
Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers
Doxford, Sir Wm. Theodore
Duke, Henry Edward
Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas-
Faber, E. B. (*Hants, W.*)
Faber, George Denison (*York*)
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
Fergusson, Rt Hn Sir J. (*Manc'r*
Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
FitzGerald, Sir Robert Penrose-
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Flower, Ernest
Forster, Henry William
Foster, P. S. (*Warwick, S.W.*
Fyler, John Arthur
Galloway, William Johnson
Gordon, Hn J E (*Elgin and N'rn*
Gore, Hn G. R. C. Ormsby-(*Salop*
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Graham, Henry Robert
Greene, Sir E. W. (*Bury St. Ed.*)
Greene, Henry D. (*Shrewsbury*)
Gretton, John
Groves, James Grimble
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Hamilton, Rt Hn Lord G (*Midd'x*
Hardy, Laurence (*Kent, Ashf'd*
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Harris, Frederick Leverton
Heath, James (*Staffords. N. W.*)
Heaton, John Henniker
Henderson, Sir Alexander
Hickman, Sir Alfred
Hogg, Lindsay
Hoult, Joseph
Howard, Jno (*Kent, Faver'hm*
Jameson, Major J. Eustace
Jeffreys, Rt. Hn. Arthur Fred.
Jessel, Capt. Herbert Merton
Johnstone, Heywood
Kenyon, Hon. G. T. (*Denbigh*
Kenyon-Slaney, Col. W. (*Salop*
Kerr, John
Keswick, William
Law, Andrew Bonar (*Glasgow*)
Lawson, John Grant (*Yorks. N R*
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leveson-Gower, Frederick N. S.
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Long, Rt. Hn. W. (*Bristol, S.*)
Lowe, Francis William
Lucas, Col. Francis (*Lowestoft*
Lucas, Reginald J. (*Portsmouth*
Macdona, John Cumming
M'Arthur, Charles (*Liverpool*)
M'Iver, Sir Lewis (*Edinb'rgh W*)
M'Killop, James (*Stirlingshire*)
Manners, Lord Cecil
Martin, Richard Biddulph
Milvain, Thomas
Mitchell, William (*Burnley*)
Montagu, G. (*Huntingdon*)
Montagu, Hn. J. Scott (*Hants.*)
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
Morrell, George Herbert
Morrison, James Archibald
Morton, Arthur H. Aylmer
Mount, William Arthur
Murray, Rt Hn A. Graham (*Bute*
Murray, Charles J. (*Coventry*)
Myers, William Henry
Nolan, Col. John P. (*Galway, N.*
Orr-Ewing, Charles Lindsay
Peel, Hn Wm. Robert Wellesley
Percy, Earl
Pilkington, Col. Richard
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Plummer, Walter R.
Pretyman, Ernest George
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
Reid, James (*Greenock*)
Renshaw, Sir Charles Bine
Renwick, George
Ridley, Hon. M. W (*Stalybridge*)
Ridley, S. Forde (*Bethnal Green*)
Ritchie, Rt. Hn. C. Thomson
Roberts, Samuel (*Sheffield*)
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Rutherford, John (*Lancashire*)
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford-
Sadler, Col. Samuel Alexander
Samuel, Harry S. (*Limehouse*)
Scott, Sir S. (*Marylebone, W.*)
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Simeon, Sir Barrington
Skewes-Cox, Thomas
Smith, Abel H. (*Hertford, East*)
Smith, Hn. W. F. D. (*Strand*)
Stanley, Edw. Jas. (*Somerset*)
Stanley, Lord (*Lancs.*)
Stewart, Sir Mark J. M'Taggart
Stirling-Maxwell, Sir Jn. M.
Talbot, Rt. Hn. J. G. (*Oxf'd Univ*
Thornton, Percy M.
Tollemache, Henry James
Tomlinson, Sir Wm. E. M.
Tufnell, Lieut.-Col. Edward
Tuke, Sir John Batty
Valentia, Viscount
Walrond, Rt Hon Sir William H.
Webb, Colonel William George
Welby, Lt.-Col A. C. E. (*Taunton*
Welby, Sir Chas. G. E. (*Notts*)
Whiteley, H. (*Ashton-u.-Lyne*)
Whitmore, Charles Algernon
Willox, Sir John Archibald
Wilson, A. S. (*York, E. R.*)
Wilson-Todd, W. H. (*Yorks.*)
Wodehouse, Rt. Hn. E. R. (*Bath*
Wylie, Alexander
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Young, Samuel

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Mr. Anstruther.

*SIR WILLIAM ANSON moved the insertion of "two-thirds."

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 1, line 12, after the last Amendment, to insert the words 'two-thirds.'"—(*Sir William Anson.*)

Question put, "That those words be there inserted in the Bill."

The House divided:—Ayes, 177; Noes, 105. (Division List No. 163.)

AYES.

Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Arrol, Sir William
Atkinson, Right Hon. John
Aubrey-Fletcher, Rt. Hn. Sir H.
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (*Manch'r*
Balfour, Rt. Hn. G. W. (*Leeds*
Balfour, Kenneth R. (*Christch.*
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bill, Charles
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bousfield, William Robert
Brassey, Albert
Bull, William James
Butcher, John George
Campbell, John (*Armagh, S.*)
Cautley, Henry Strother

Cavendish, R. F. (*N. Lancs.*)
Cavendish, V. C. W. (*Derbyshire*
Cayzer, Sir Charles William
Cecil, Evelyn (*Aston Manor*)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (*Greenwich*)
Chamberlain, Rt Hn. J. (*Birm.*
Chapman, Edward
Clive, Captain Percy A.
Cochrane, Hon. T. H. A. E.
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colomb, Sir John Chas. Ready
Colston, Chas. Edw H. Athole
Compton, Lord Alwyne
Cox, Irwin Edwd. Bainbridge
Cranborne, Viscount
Cripps, Charles Alfred
Cross, Alexander (*Glasgow*)
Cross, Herb. Shepherd (*Bolton*
Crossley, Rt. Hn. Sir Savile
Dalkeith, Earl of
Denny, Colonel
Dickinson, Robert Edmond
Dimsdale, Rt. Hon. Sir Jos. C.
Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
Doughty, George
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers
Doxford, Sir William Theodore
Duke, Henry Edward
Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas
Faber, E. B. (*Hants, W.*)
Faber, George Denison (*York*)
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Ed.
Fergusson, Rt Hn. Sir J. (*Man'r*
Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
FitzGerald, Sir Robert Penrose
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Flower, Ernest
Forster, Henry William
Foster, P. S. (*Warwick, S.W.*
Fyler, John Arthur
Galloway, William Johnson
Gordon, Hn. J. E. (*Elgin & Nrn*
Gore, Hn. G. R. C. Ormsby (*Salop*
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Graham, Henry Robert
Greene, Sir E. W. (*Bury St. Ed.*
Greene, Henry D. (*Shrewsbury*)
Greene, W. Raymond-(*Cambs.*
Gretton, John
Groves, James Grimble
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Hamilton, Rt. Hn. Ld. G. (*Midlx*
Hardy, Laurence (*Kent Ashford*
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Harris, Frederick Leverton
Heath, James (*Staffs., N. W.*)
Henderson, Sir Alexander
Hickman, Sir Alfred
Hogg, Lindsay
Hoult, Joseph
Howard, J. (*Kent, Faversham*
Jameson, Major J. Eustace
Jebb, Sir Richard Claverhouse
Jeffreys, Rt. Hn. Arthur Fred
Jessel, Capt. Herbert Merton
Johnstone, Heywood
Kenyon, Hon. Geo. T. (*Denbigh*)
Kenyon-Slaney, Col. W. (*Salop*
Kerr, John
Keswick, William
Law, Andrew Bonar (*Glasgow*
Lawson, John Grant (*Yorks N.R.*
Lees, Sir Elliott (*Birkenhead*)
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leveson-Gower, Frederick N. S.
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Long, Rt Hn. Walter (*Bristol, S.*
Lowe, Francis William
Lucas, Col. Francis (*Lowestoft*
Lucas, Reg'ld J. (*Portsmouth*)
Macdona, John Cumming
M'Arthur, Charles (*Liverpool*)
M'Iver, Sir Lewis (*Edinburgh W*
M'Killop, James (*Stirlingshire*
Manners, Lord Cecil
Martin, Richard Biddulph
Milvain, Thomas
Mitchell, William (*Burnley*)
Montagu, G. (*Huntingdon*)
Montagu, Hon. J. Scott (*Hants*)
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
Morrell, George Herbert
Morrison, James Archibald
Morton, Arthur H. Aylmer
Mount, William Arthur
Murray, Rt Hn A. Graham (*Bute*
Murray, Charles J. (*Coventry*)
Myers, William Henry
Nolan, Col. John P. (*Galway, N.*
Orr-Ewing, Charles Lindsay
Peel, Hn. Wm. R. Wellesley
Percy, Earl
Pilkington, Colonel Richard
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Plummer, Walter R.
Pretyman, Ernest George
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
Rattigan, Sir William Henry
Reid, James (*Greenock*)
Renshaw, Sir Charles Bine
Renwick, George
Ridley, Hn. M. W. (*Stalybridge*
Ridley, S. F. (*Bethnal Green*)
Ritchie, Rt. Hn. Chas. Thomson
Roberts, Samuel (*Sheffield*)
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Rutherford, John (*Lancashire*)
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford
Sadler, Col. Samuel Alexander
Samuel, Harry S. (*Limehouse*)
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Scott, Sir S. (*Marylebone, W.*)
Seely, Chas. Hilton (*Lincoln*)
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Skewes-Cox, Thomas
Smith, Abel H. (*Hertford, East*
Smith, James Parker (*Lanarks*
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (*Strand*
Stanley, Ed. Jas. (*Somerset*)
Stanley, Lord (*Lancs.*)
Stewart, Sir Mark J. M'Taggart
Stirling-Maxwell, Sir John M.
Talbot, Rt Hn. J. G. (*Oxf'd Univ.*
Thornton, Percy M.
Tollemache, Henry James
Tomlinson, Sir Wm. Edw. M.
Tufnell, Lieut.-Col. Edward
Valentia, Viscount
Walrond, Rt. Hn. Sir William H.
Webb, Colonel William George
Welby, Lt.-Col A. C. E (*Taunton*
Welby, Sir Chas. G. E. (*Notts*)
Whiteley, H (*Ashton-und-Lyne*
Whitmore, Charles Algernon
Willoughby de Eresby, Lord
Willox, Sir John Archibald
Wilson, A. Stanley (*York, E.R.*
Wodehouse, Rt. Hn. E. R. (*Bath*
Wylie, Alexander
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Young, Samuel

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Allen, Chas. P. (*Glos., Stroud*)
Asher, Alexander
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Asquith, Rt. Hon. Herbt. Hy.
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Beaumont, Wentworth C. B.
Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.
Bolton, Thomas Dolling
Bond, Edward
Bowles, Lt.-Col. H. F (*Middlesex*
Brigg, John
Broadhurst, Henry
Brown, George M. (*Edinburgh*
Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
Buxton, Sydney Charles
Caldwell, James
Causton, Richard Knight
Cawley, Frederick
Cremer, William Randal
Crooks, William
Dewar, John A. (*Inverness-sh.*)
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Doogan, P. C.
Douglas, Charles M. (*Lanark*)
Duncan, J. Hastings
Dyke, Rt. Hon. Sir Wm. Hart
Elibank, Master of
Fenwick, Charles
Ferguson, R. C. Munro (*Leith*)
Foster, Sir Michl. (*Lond. Univ*
Foster, Sir Walter (*Derby Co.*)
Fuller, J. M. F.
Furness, Sir Christopher
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Gray, Ernest (*West Ham*)
Grey, Rt. Hn. Sir E. (*Berwick*)
Griffith, Ellis J.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Hardie, J. Keir (*Merthyr Tydvil*
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Hayne, Rt. Hn. Charles Seale-
Hayter, Rt. Hn. Sir Arthur D.
Hemphill, Rt. Hn. Charles H.
Hope, John Deans (*Fife, West*
Horniman, Frederick John
Jones, William (*Carnarvonshire*
Kitson, Sir James

Langley, Batty
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (*Cornwall*
Leigh, Sir Joseph
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, David
Lough, Thomas
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
M'Arthur, William (*Cornwall*)
M'Crae, George
M'Laren, Sir Charles Benjamin
Mansfield, Horace Rendall
Markham, Arthur Basil
Morgan, David J (*Walthamstow*
Morgan, J. Lloyd (*Carmarthen*
Moulton, John Fletcher
Partington, Oswald
Paulton, James Mellor
Perks, Robert William
Philipps, John Wynford
Pirie, Duncan V.
Price, Robert John
Priestley, Arthur
Rea, Russell
Rickett, J. Compton
Rigg, Richard
Roberts, John H. (*Denbighs.*)
Robertson, Herbert (*Hackney*)
Roe, Sir Thomas
Runciman, Walter
Russell, T. W.
Samuel, Herbert L. (*Cleveland*
Shaw, Charles E. (*Stafford*)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair, John (*Forfarshire*)
Smith, H C (*North'mb. Tyneside*
Spencer, Rt. Hn. C. R (*Northants*
Taylor, Theodore C. (*Radcliffe*
Tennant, Harold John
Thomas, Abel (*Carmarthen E.*
Thomas, Sir A. (*Glamorgan E.*
Thomas, David Alfred (*Merthyr*
Thomas, F. Freeman (*Hastings*
Thomson, F. W. (*York, W. R.*)
Tomkinson, James
Toulmin, George
Tritton, Charles Ernest
Wason, E. (*Clackmannan*)
Weir, James Galloway
White, George (*Norfolk*)
Whitley, J. H. (*Halifax*)
Williams, Osmond (*Merioneth*
Wilson, F. W. (*Norfolk, Mid*)
Wilson, John (*Durham Mid.*)
Wortley, Rt. Hn. C. B. Stuart-
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
Lord Edmund Fitzmaurice
and Mr. Henry Hobhouse.

MR. MANSFIELD moved to substitute the word "may" for the word "shall" in that part of the clause which provides that the Borough Councils shall appoint three-fourths of the school managers. At the present moment the number of those who had the appointment of those managers was very small indeed. The ratepayers had decided that the Borough Councils were not the proper authorities to elect the managers, and the ratepayers of London had declared that they did not wish the Borough Councils to have the appointment of managers. In some cases, the very Councils upon whom the Government wished to put the duty of electing the managers, had declined to have anything to do with the Act at all. How was the Secretary to the Board of Education going to deal with that difficulty? How he would deal with the Borough Councils who refused to elect managers he was at a loss to understand. They would, in all probability, have to call out the 5th and 6th Army Corps in order to adjust these matters in London. The Government were finding out in the country that there was such a thing as opposition to the Education Bill of last year, and what they wanted to do now was to prevent the passive resistance movement spreading from the provinces to London. He was anxious to reduce that resistance to a mimimum, so that this Bill should have a chance of becoming popular and securing success. It was notorious that the Borough Councils were not looked upon as a good authority to elect those managers, and he desired to take out the word "shall" and insert the word "may," so that some degree of elasticity might be introduced. He proposed this Amendment in order that the County Council as the education authority might have supreme power.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 1, line 12, to leave out the word 'shall' and insert the word 'may.'"—(*Mr. Mansfield.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'shall' stand part of the Bill."

* SIR WILLIAM ANSON said he had some difficulty in understanding the object of the hon. Member's Amendment. He did not know whether he meant this power to be permissive or not. If he meant it to be permissive then he could not accept the Amendment in its

present form. If he meant that the Borough Councils might decline to appoint managers and a deadlock might arise he wished to point out that in the first schedule of the Act the Education Committee might appoint Sub-committees consisting partly of its own members and partly of other persons, and therefore the management might go on under Sub-committees. He could not consent to leave it to the option of the Education Authority as to whether the boroughs should appoint these managers or not.

Mr. LLOYD-GEORGE thought there was a good deal more in this Amendment than the hon. Baronet seemed to think. After all, in his opinion, it would facilitate arrangements being made between the two parties, and he hoped his hon. friend would press the matter to a division.

Dr. MACNAMARA thought this was a more practical proposal than the Secretary to the Board of Education realised, because two-thirds in this case would mean eight persons. Suppose, as was quite conceivable, the Borough Councils could not appoint eight persons, in that case they at once created a deadlock. He could see no other way out of the difficulty at all except making this proposal more elastic. In regard to the practical working of this scheme by putting in the word "shall," they were asking them to do an impossibility in the East-end of London. They would send eight or twelve persons, who would not always be the most suitable for the office. Surely the Secretary to the Board of Education, with his zeal to make this thing workable, would be well advised to make it as elastic as possible.

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 176; Noes 83. (Division List No. 164.)

AYES.

Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Arrol, Sir William
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Aubrey-Fletcher, Rt. Hn. Sir H.
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J. (*Manch'r.*
Balfour, Kenneth R. (*Christch*
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.
Bill, Charles
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bond, Edward
Bowles, Lt.-Col. H. F (*Middlesex*
Brassey, Albert
Bull, William James
Butcher, John George
Campbell, John (*Armagh S.*)
Cautley, Henry Strother
Cavendish, R. F. (*N. Lancs.*)
Cavendish, V. C. W. (*Derbyshire*
Cayzer, Sir Charles William
Cecil, Evelyn (*Aston Manor*)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (*Greenwich*)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hn. J. (*Birm.*
Chapman, Edward
Clive, Captain Percy A.
Cochrane, Hon. Thomas H. A. E.
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colston, Chas. Edw. H. Athole
Compton, Lord Alwyne
Cox, Irwin Edward Bainbridge
Cranborne, Viscount
Cross, Herb. Shepherd (*Bolton*
Crossley, Rt. Hon. Sir Savile
Cust, Henry John C.
Dalkeith, Earl of
Dickinson, Robert Edmond
Dimsdale, Rt. Hon. Sir Jos. C.
Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
Doogan, P. C.
Doughty, George
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers
Doxford, Sir Wm. Theodore
Duke, Henry Edward
Dyke, Rt. Hn. Sir William Hart
Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas
Faber, E. B. (*Hants, W.*)
Faber, George Denison (*York*)
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Ed.
Fergusson, Rt. Hn. Sir J. (*Manc'r*
Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
Fitzgerald, Sir Robert Penrose-
Flower, Ernest
Forster, Henry William
Foster, P. S. (*Warwick, S.W.*
Fyler, John Arthur
Galloway, William Johnson
Gibbs, Hn A. G. H (*City of Lond.*
Gordon, Hn J. E (*Elgin and N'rn*
Gore, Hn G. R. C Ormsby-(*Salop*
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Graham, Henry Robert
Gray, Ernest (*West Ham*)
Greene, Sir E W (*B'ry S Edm'nds*
Greene, Hy. D. (*Shrewsbury*)
Greene, W. Raymond-(*Cambs.*
Gretton, John
Groves, James Grimble
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Hamilton, Rt Hn Lord G (*Midd'x*
Hardy, Laurence (*Kent, Ashfd*
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Harris, Frederick Leverton
Heath, James (*Staffs., N.W.*)
Henderson, Sir Alexander
Hickman, Sir Alfred
Hobhouse, Rt Hn H (*Somrst E*
Hogg, Lindsay
Hoult, Joseph
Howard, Jno (*Kent, Faver'hm*
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Jebb, Sir Richard Claverhouse
Jeffreys, Rt. Hn. Arthur Fred
Jessel, Captain Herbert Merton
Johnstone, Heywood
Kenyon-Slaney, Col. W. (*Salop*
Kerr, John
Keswick, William
Law, Andrew Bonar (*Glasgow*)
Lawson, John Grant (*Yorks. N.R*
Lees, Sir Elliott (*Birkenhead*)
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leveson-Gower, Frederick N. S.
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (*Bristol S.*
Lowe, Francis William
Lucas, Col. Francis (*Lowestoft*
Lucas, Reginald J. (*Portsmouth*
Lyttelton, Hon. Alfred
Macdona, John Cumming
M'Arthur, Charles (*Liverpool*)
M'Iver, Sir Lewis (*Edinburgh W*
M'Killop, James (*Stirlingshire*
Martin, Richard Biddulph
Milvain, Thomas
Montagu, G. (*Huntingdon*)
Morgan, David J (*Walthamstow*
Morrell, George Herbert
Morrison, James Archibald
Morton, Arthur H. Aylmer
Mount, William Arthur
Murray, Rt Hn A. Graham (*Bute*
Murray, Charles J. (*Coventry*)
Myers, William Henry
Nolan, Col. John P. (*Galway N.*

Orr-Ewing, Charles Lindsay
Peel, Hn. Wm. Robert Wellesley
Percy, Earl
Pilkington, Colonel Richard
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Plummer, Walter R.
Pretyman, Ernest George
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
Reid, James (*Greenock*)
Renshaw, Sir Charles Bine
Renwick, George
Ridley, Hn. M. W. (*Stalybridge*
Ridley, S. Forde (*Bethnal Green*
Ritchie, Rt. Hn. Chas. Thomson
Roberts, Samuel (*Sheffield*)
Robertson, Herbert (*Hackney*)
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Rutherford, John (*Lancashire*)
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford-
Sadler, Col. Samuel Alexander
Samuel, Harry S. (*Limehouse*)
Scott, Sir S. (*Marylebone W.*)
Seely, Charles Hilton (*Lincoln*)
Smith, Abel H. (*Hertford, East*
Smith, H. C (*North'mb. Tyneside*
Smith, James Parker (*Lanarks*
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (*Strand*
Stanley, Edw. Jas. (*Somerset*)
Stanley, Lord (*Lancs.*)
Stewart, Sir M. J. M'Taggart
Stirling-Maxwell, Sir John M.
Talbot, Rt. Hn J. G (*Oxf'd Univ.*
Taylor, Austin (*East Toxteth*)
Thornton, Percy M.
Tomlinson, Sir Wm. Edw. M.
Tufnell, Lieut.-Col. Edward
Valentia, Viscount
Walrond, Rt. Hn. Sir Wm. H.
Warde, Colonel C. E.
Webb, Colonel William George
Welby, Lt-Col. A. C. E (*Taunton*
Welby, Sir Charles G. E. (*Notts.*
Whiteley, H. (*Ashton und. Lyne*
Whitmore, Charles Algernon
Willoughby de Eresby, Lord
Willox, Sir John Archibald
Wilson, A. Stanley (*York, E.R*
Wodehouse, Rt. Hn. E. R. (*Bath*
Wortley, Rt. Hn. C. B. Stuart
Wylie, Alexander
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Allen, Chas. P. (*Glouc., Stroud*
Asher, Alexander
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Asquith, Rt. Hon. Herbt. Hy.
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Beaumont, Wentworth C. B.
Bolton, Thomas Dolling
Broadhurst, Henry
Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
Buxton, Sydney Charles
Caldwell, James
Causton, Richard Knight
Cawley, Frederick
Cremer, William Randal
Crooks, William
Dewar, John A. (*Inverness-sh.*
Douglas, Charles M. (*Lanark*)
Elibank, Master of
Ferguson, R. C. Munro (*Leith*
Foster, Sir Walter (*Derby Co.*)
Fuller, J. M. F.
Furness, Sir Christopher
Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herbert John
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Grey, Rt. Hn. Sir E. (*Berwick*
Griffith, Ellis J.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Hardie, J. Keir (*Merthyr Tyd*
Hayne, Rt. Hn. Charles Seale-
Hayter, Rt Hon Sir Arthur D.
Hope, John Deans (*Fife, West*
Horniman, Frederick John
Jones, William (*Carnarvonsh.*
Kitson, Sir James
Langley, Batty
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (*Cornwall*
Leigh, Sir Joseph
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lough, Thomas
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
M'Arthur, William (*Cornwall*
M'Crae, George
M'Laren, Sir Charles Benj.
Markham, Arthur Basil
Moulton, John Fletcher
Partington, Oswald
Paulton, James Mellor
Philipps, John Wynford
Pirie, Duncan V.
Price, Robert John
Priestley, Arthur
Rea, Russell
Rickett, J. Compton
Rigg, Richard
Roberts, John H. (*Denbighs.*)
Robson, William Snowdon
Roe, Sir Thomas
Runciman, Walter
Russell, T. W.
Samuel, Herbt. L. (*Cleveland*)
Shaw, Charles E. (*Stafford*)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair, John (*Forfarshire*)
Soares, Ernest J.
Spencer, Rt Hn. C R. (*Northants*
Taylor, Theodore C. (*Radcliffe*
Tennant, Harold John
Thomas, Abel (*Carmarthen, E.*
Thomas, Sir A. (*Glamorgan, E.*
Thomas, David Alfred (*Merthyr*
Thomas, F. Freeman (*Hastings*
Thomson, F. W. (*York, W.R.*)
Tomkinson, James
Toulmin, George
Wason, Eugene (*Clackmannan*
Weir, James Galloway
Whitley, J. H. (*Halifax*)
Williams, O. (*Merioneth*)
Wilson, Fred W. (*Norfolk, Mid*)
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Mansfield and Mr. George White.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

> "In page 1, line 13, to leave out the words 'one-fourth' and insert the words 'one-third.'"—(*Sir William Anson.*)

Amendment agreed to.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR, in moving the adjournment of the House, gave notice that, as a measure of precaution, he proposed to ask for the suspension of the twelve o'clock rule to-morrow night in order to finish the Education Bill.

MR. LOUGH said he did not think there was any reason to give notice that the twelve o'clock rule should be suspended. Although there was a very strong feeling against the Bill there had not been any obstruction, and he did not think there was the slightest risk in regard to the passage of the Bill.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR said he believed that what had just fallen from the hon. Member was quite true, and the Motion he should make for the suspension of the rule was not intended in the least to be coercive.

And, it being Midnight, further consideration of the Bill, as amended, stood adjourned.

Bill, as amended, to be further considered this day.

NAVAL WORKS (PORTSMOUTH BARRACKS SITE) BILL.

Ordered, that the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills do examine the Naval Works (Portsmouth Barracks Site) Bill with respect to compliance with the Standing Orders relative to Private Bills.—(*Mr. Pretyman.*)

Adjourned at five minutes after Twelve o'clock

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Wednesday, 15*th July*, 1903.

The House met at Two of the Clock.

UNOPPOSED PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Alexandra Park and Palace Bill (by Order). Read the third time, and passed.

Bury and District Joint Water Board Bill [Lords]; Scottish Ontario and Manitoba Land Company Bill [Lords]. Read a second time, and committed.

Sutton Coldfield Corporation Bill [Lords]. Reported from the Police and Sanitary Committee, with Amendments; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

PETITIONS.

CRUELTY TO ANIMALS BILL.

Petition of the Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

LICENCES.

Petition from Carlisle, for alteration of Law; to lie upon the Table.

LICENSING (SCOTLAND) ACTS AMENDMENT BILL.

Petition from St. Andrew's, Johnstone, for alteration; to lie upon the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

HORSE BREEDING (ROYAL COMMISSION).

Copy presented, of Ninth Report of the Royal Commission on Horse Breeding, with Appendices [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

IMPERIAL REVENUE (COLLECTION AND EXPENDITURE) (GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND).

Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 31st March; *Mr. Joseph A. Pease*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 256.]

SUPERANNUATION ACT, 1887.

Copy presented, of Treasury Minute, dated 11th July, 1903, granting to Louis Charles Lepts, Sorting Clerk and Telegraphist, Liverpool Post Office, a retired allowance under the Act [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS AMENDMENT ACT, 1890.

Copy presented, of Regulations made by the Local Government Board for Ireland as to issue of Stock by Urban Authorities [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

ALLOTMENTS (SCOTLAND).

Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 25th May; *Mr. Eugene Wason*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 257.]

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

Laundry and Cookery Lessons for Female Prisoners—Female Prison Inspectors.

MR. FLOWER (Bradford, W.): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether, in view of the fact that over 70 per cent. of the female prisoners in the gaols of this country have been previously convicted, he will consider the desirability of augmenting the lectures given by lady visitors last winter by practical teaching in laundry, cookery, and hygiene, which would fit the prisoners on leaving to earn their living; also whether he would again consider the advantages to be gained by the appointment of a female prison inspector.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Akers Douglas.*) The industries carried out under skilled instruction as a part of the regular prison routine for female prisoners furnish practical teaching in laundry work and cooking, and with regard to "hygiene," as much as is possible is done by including "sanitation" as one of the subjects of a course of lectures which have now for some months past been delivered by lady visitors to female prisoners in the Metropolis according to a regular and approved plan. It is hoped to extend, in due course, the good work that is being done by lady visitors in London in this respect to other prisons throughout the country. As regards the second paragraph of the Question I have seen no reason to differ from the adverse view expressed by my predecessor in answer to a similar suggestion from the hon. Member on the 31st January, 1902. †

Distribution of Non-Resident Out-door Relief.

MR. HERBERT SAMUEL (Yorkshire, Cleveland): To ask the President of the Local Government Board whether, in view of the practice of some boards of guardians of refusing to allow their officers to dispense non-resident out-door relief on behalf of other unions, he will take such steps as may be necessary to make it obligatory on all unions to distribute such relief.

(*Answered by Mr. Walter Long.*) There are certain objections to the system of non-resident relief, and I am not prepared to adopt the course suggested by the hon. Member. If a board of guardians refuse to distribute non-resident relief, it is open to the guardians who desire to grant it to make arrangements for its distribution through some other channel.

Exports and Re-Exports Carried by British Ships.

COLONEL DENNY (Kilmarnock Burghs): To ask the President of the Board of Trade whether figures recently furnished by the Board of Trade, showing the value of the exports of British produce and re-exports of foreign and colonial produce, include the freights to ports of destination; if not, can he furnish an estimate of what such freight would amount to in each of the periods, and how much of it was earned by the British ships; and would he also say whether such freight, where earned by British ships, should be regarded as an export from this country.

(*Answered by Mr. Gerald Balfour.*) As stated in the official trade accounts, the recorded values of our exports of British produce and of re-exports of foreign and colonial produce are the "free on board" values, and consequently do not include the cost of freight from United Kingdom ports to the ports of destination. The answer to the second part of the Question is in the negative. In my opinion, the earnings of British shipping must be regarded as an offset in considering the apparent excess of our imports over our exports, but the question is one on which my hon. friend is in as good a position to form a judgment as I am.

British Colonies—Revenue from Import Duties.

MR. ALFRED DAVIES (Carmarthen Boroughs): To ask the President of the Board of Trade if he will state the amounts received respectively by our colonies from duties on imports in the years 1882, 1892, and 1902, and their population at those periods.

(*Answered by Mr. Gerald Balfour.*) The information as to revenue from import duties only cannot be supplied at short notice, but the hon. Member will find particulars of the Customs revenue of the various colonies for a period of years in Table 8 of the Colonial Abstract [Cd. 1325–1902]. In some cases a relatively small proportion of this revenue represents receipts from export dues. The figures for 1902 are not yet available.

Savings Bank Deposits in Great Britain and Abroad.

MR. MARKHAM (Nottinghamshire, Mansfield): To ask the President of the Board of Trade whether he can state the amount deposited in the savings bank per head of the population in the following countries: Great Britain, France, Sweden, Austria-Hungary, United States of America, Belgium, Australia, Norway, Germany, Switzerland, and Denmark.

(*Answered by Mr. Gerald Balfour.*) The preparation of these figures would entail a considerable amount of labour, and the result would give a very incomplete indication of comparative thrift in the countries named, owing to the omission of friendly societies and other thrift agencies not included under the title of savings banks.

Increase in Coal Exports.

SIR JOSEPH LAWRENCE (Monmouth Boroughs): To ask the President of the Board of Trade how much of the increased exports for the first six months of 1903, compared with the figures of last year and for the periods 1873–1882, 1883–1892, and 1893–1902 is due to coal and coke; and how much have been the increases of the same class of exports to British possessions.

---

† See (4) *Debates*, cii., 28.

(*Answered by Mr. Gerald Balfour.*) The increase of the value of the exports of coal and coke during the past six months, compared with the corresponding period of last year, was £388,870. The rest of the Question cannot be answered without longer notice.

American All-Rail Export Rates for Wheat.

MR. HUGH SMITH (Northumberland, Tyneside): To ask the Secretary to the Board of Trade if he can say what were the all-rail export rates for wheat per 100 lbs. from Chicago and Milwaukee, during 1900 and 1901, to Boston, New York, Philadelphia, and Montreal and Baltimore.

(*Answered by Mr. Gerald Balfour.*) The average "all-rail" freight rates for wheat per bushel from Chicago to New York during 1900 and 1901 are stated by the New York Produce Exchange to have been 9·98 cents and 9·92 cents respectively. I have no information as to the rates to the other ports mentioned.

Competitive Examinations for Postal Appointments at Dublin.

MR. NANNETTI (Dublin, College Green): To ask the Postmaster-General if he can say why the scheme for filling clerical duties in the Dublin and other offices by competitive examination amongst the members of the staff recommended by the Tweedmouth Commission has not been carried out; and can he see his way to bring the scheme into force at the earliest possible moment.

(*Answered by Mr. Austen Chamberlain.*) The scheme mentioned in evidence before the Tweedmouth Committee was not adopted, so far as the clerical offices in Dublin and Edinburgh are concerned. The sorting clerks and telegraphists in Dublin are, in common with other officers of the Post Office, eligible to compete for clerkships in several of the London offices.

Management of Male Dining-Room at Dublin Telegraph Office.

MR. NANNETTI: To ask the Postmaster-General if he received two petitions some time ago from the staff of the telegraph office in Dublin dealing with the management of the male dining-room; if so, can he state why the decisions bearing his signature were not shown either to the staff or committee of club.

(*Answered by Mr. Austen Chamberlain.*) Two memorials, dated respectively the 4th of March and the 18th of April last, were duly considered, and the decision upon them was communicated to the staff through the usual channel. Only the second of these petitions, dated the 18th April last, was addressed to me, and my decision upon it was communicated to the petitioners in the usual way early in May.

Gordon-Bennett Cup—Breakdown of Telegraphic Arrangements at Dublin

MR. NANNETTI: To ask the Postmaster-General whether he is aware that the arrangements made by the telegraph authorities to cope with counter duty in the Dublin Office were inadequate on the Sunday previous to the Gordon-Bennett motor race; and, seeing that a number of French tourists were expected to arrive in Dublin on that day, can he explain why arrangements were not made to cope with the extra pressure, and why a junior member of the staff, who had no previous experience of counter duty, was employed at the Dublin telegraph counter during portion of the Gordon-Bennett week.

(*Answered by Mr. Austen Chamberlain.*) At one period of the day on Sunday, 28th June, there was considerable and unforeseen pressure at the counter of the Dublin post office, owing to the unexpected arrival of a special steamer conveying a number of French motorists. Arrangements were made to meet the exceptional pressure with as little delay as possible. An officer who had had no previous experience of counter work was employed at the Dublin telegraph counter on Monday 29th June, and performed the duty satisfactorily; but, as the following days were likely to be busy, he was replaced by an experienced officer after that date.

Wages of Agricultural Labourers.

MR. D. A. THOMAS (Merthyr Tydvil): To ask the President of the Board of Agriculture whether he is aware that an official of the Board of Trade has stated that the average weekly cash wages of ordinary agricultural labourers employed on certain farms in different parts of England and Wales increased by over 50 per cent. between 1850 and 1900, concurrently with a fall of over 30 per cent. in the price of wheat; and whether he has any official information tending to show what the agricultural wages generally in England and Wales have been during the past fifty years.

(*Answered by Mr. Ailwyn Fellowes.*) We are aware of the statement to which the hon. Member refers. There are, unfortunately, no official records of the course o agricultural wages during the last half century to which reference can be made. The statement was therefore based upon information relating to particular farms and does not cover a sufficiently large area whereon to found a confident conclusion that it accurately represents the movements of agricultural wages generally.

Crown v. Stapleton, Delaney, and Carroll —Notice of Change of Venue—Jury Challenging.

MR. DILLON (Mayo, E.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether notice of the motion to change the venue and fix a special jury in the case of the Crown against Stapleton, Delaney, and Carroll, of Borrisoleigh, Tipperary, was served on the defendants; and whether it is proposed to exercise the right of unlimited challenge in selecting the jury before which the accused are to be tried in Cork.

(*Answered by Mr. Wyndham*). No notice of the application was given because none is required to be given, but the copy of the order when made was served on the accused as provided by the statute. It is intended to use such powers as the Crown possess, when necessary, to secure an impartial trial.

MR. P. J. O'BRIEN (Tipperary, N.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether the Irish Government formed the opinion that a fair trial by a special jury in the case against Stapleton, Delaney, and Carroll, of Borrisoleigh could not have been had at the recent assizes held at Nenagh; and, if so, will he state upon what grounds that opinion was based.

(*Answered by Mr. Wyndham.*) The Attorney-General, with all the materials before him, formed the opinion that a more fair and impartial trial could be obtained in Cork than in Tipperary, and in exercise of the powers vested in him by statute made the application for a change of venue and a special jury. The grounds on which that opinion and belief were formed cannot be stated, the more especially as the trial is proceeding.

District Contracts for Regimental Institutes.

SIR THOMAS DEWAR (Tower Hamlets, St. George's): To ask the Secretary of State for War whether he is aware that, under Paragraph 5 of the Army Order, dated 22nd June, 1903, relative to the management of regimental institutes, General Officers commanding Army Corps are forbidden to make district contracts for beer supplies to regimental institutes; and, seeing that other supplies for the Army are made under contract, and that the system of district contracts which has been in force during recent years has admitted of soldiers being supplied with malt liquors of improved quality at a reduced cost, will he state under what circumstances the new Order has been made, and whether he can arrange to have it re-considered.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Brodrick.*) This alteration was advisedly adopted after full consideration of the evidence taken, and the unanimous recommendation of the Military Authorities was in favour of the abolition of district contracts. I fear I cannot undertake to reconsider the matter.

South African War Medal for 2nd Royal Scots Fusiliers.

MR. PIRIE (Aberdeen, N.): To ask the Secretary of State for War can he explain why, on 8th July, at the review of the 1st Army Corps by His Majesty, the 2nd Battalion Royal Scots Fusiliers were not wearing the King's South African medal, although this battalion was one of the first to proceed to South Africa, where it remained throughout the war. Have the medal rolls been sent in by the Corps; and, if so, when, and what is the cause of delay.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Brodrick.*) The medal rolls of this battalion were sent in on 26th March, 1903, but it has not yet been found possible to dispose of them, as only a certain number of rolls can be dealt with at a time, and it would not be equitable to take those of this battalion out of their turn.

Recommendations of Committee on Army Veterinary Department.

MR. WINGFIELD-DIGBY (Dorsetshire, N.): To ask the Secretary of State for War if the Committee on the Army Veterinary Department finished its sittings last February; what its recommendations are; and when they will be brought into force.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Brodrick.*) This Committee did not complete their Report until the 8th April. The recommendations are being carefully considered.

Suggested Royal Commission on Physical Training in England and Wales.

MR. PRIESTLEY (Grantham): To ask the First Lord of the Treasury, in view of the Report of the Royal Commission on Physical Training in Scotland, will His Majesty's Government consider the desirability of appointing a similar Commission for England and Wales, or take steps to introduce into all national elementary schools a system of scientific physical training.

(*Answered by Mr. A. J. Balfour.*) This question is engaging the attention of the Government, but the particular form which an inquiry should take is one which cannot be determined without further consideration. I may refer the hon. Member to statements made on this subject by the Secretary to the Board of Education in this House,† and by the Lord President of the Council in another place.‡

QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE.

Young Officers and Indian Service.

MR. ORR-EWING (Ayr Burghs): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether he will explain why young officers are sent out to join their regiments in India for the first time during the summer months; and whether the same consideration can be extended to commissioned officers as exists for the rank and file, who only embark during the trooping season.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO THE WAR OFFICE (Lord STANLEY, Lancashire, Westhoughton): It has been decided to send young officers to India during the trooping season only.

Post Office Employees and Volunteer Camps.

MR. CROMBIE (Kincardineshire): I beg to ask the Postmaster-General whether he is aware that, while private employers of labour in Aberdeen have responded to the appeals made to them to allow their employees leave of absence for fourteen days in order to go to camp with the 1st Volunteer Battalion Gordon Highlanders, who have been selected to form part of the 34th Field Army Brigade, leave of absence to attend this camp has been refused to all volunteers in this corps employed in the General Post Office in Aberdeen; and whether, as the latter form an important part of the corps, he will grant them the leave of absence required.

THE POSTMASTER-GENERAL (Mr. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN, Worcestershire, E.): I have no information upon this subject and no complaint has reached me from the staff in regard to it; but I will make enquiry into the facts. I am anxious to afford all the facilities in my power to volunteers in the Postal Telegraph Service to go into camp, and instructions were issued in May last upon the subject; but the exigencies of the service sometimes render it impossible to give leave when required for this purpose, and the efficient discharge of the Department's duty to the public must be the first consideration.

---

† See page 246.

‡ See (4) *Debates*, cxxiv., 1346.

Devonport and Portsmouth Dockyards.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty what was the number of persons in receipt of wages at Devonport Dockyard and at Portsmouth Dockyard on the 1st July last, as compared with the 1st July, 1902, and the 1st July, 1901; what number of slips on which a first-class battleship or armoured cruiser can be laid down are vacant in Devonport and Portsmouth Dockyards, or will be vacant before 1st January next, with regard to which there is no present intention on the part of the Admiralty of laying down other ships before that date.

THE SECRETARY TO THE ADMIRALTY (Mr. ARNOLD FORSTER, Belfast, W.): The number of persons in receipt of wages at the Devonport Dockyard on 1st July, 1901, was 8,116; 1st July, 1902, 8,528; and on the 1st July of the present year it was 9,475, an increase over 1901 of 1,359. The corresponding figures for Portsmouth Dockyard are:—1st July, 1901, 9,756; 1st July, 1902, 9,896; 1st July, 1903, 10,282, an increase over 1901 of 526. No slip on which a first-class battleship or armoured cruiser can be laid down is vacant at Portsmouth. There is one such slip now vacant at Devonport, and a second will become vacant on the launch of the "King Edward VII." on the 23rd July. It is proposed to lay down a new ship in each of the three principal Yards in April next.

Rosyth.

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON (Dundee): I beg to ask the Civil Lord of the Admiralty in what respect the powers of compulsory purchase conferred on the Admiralty by The Naval Works Act, 1895, were announced to be defective; and what was the estimate of the cost of providing by that method in the case of Rosyth.

THE CIVIL LORD OF THE ADMIRALTY (Mr. PRETYMAN, Suffolk, Woodbridge): I am not aware that the powers referred to in the first part of the hon. Member's Question have been announced to be defective for the purposes for which they were granted by Parliament. It does not, however, follow from this that these powers could have been enforced over the whole area which has now been acquired by the Admiralty at Rosyth. It is obvious that no accurate forecast could be made of the sum an arbitrator might have awarded under the compulsory purchase clauses supposing them to have been enforceable, but the Admiralty were advised that it might probably exceed the amount agreed to by private treaty.

Annual Cost of Portsmouth Dockyard.

MR. BUCHANAN (Perthshire, E.): I beg to ask the Civil Lord of the Admiralty what is the total annual cost of Portsmouth Dockyard.

MR. PRETYMAN: It is not practicable to give the approximate cost of Portsmouth in 1902-1903 with any approach to accuracy without considerable labour. If the hon. Member will refer to the Dockyard Expense Accounts, which is issued as a Parliamentary Paper, he will find there, on page 197, the cost of the establishment and incidental charges at Portsmouth for the past ten years, the total for 1901-1902 being £362,253.

Transvaal Diamond Ordinance.

MR. MARKHAM (Nottinghamshire, Mansfield): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether, seeing that the Attorney-General, on 17th June, stated in the Transvaal Legislative Council that the Government of Lord Milner had framed the Precious Stones Ordinance with a view of keeping the diamond mines of the Transvaal as much as possible under one control, on the ground that the policy of the late Mr. Rhodes saved the diamond industry by limiting the output of diamonds, he will say, in view of the fact that the price of diamonds is artificially maintained by the De Beers Company 500 per cent. above their natural value, if he will cable to Lord Milner that he cannot assent to legislation having as its object the creation of artificial prices to benefit a monopolist syndicate of financiers.

The SECRETARY of STATE for the COLONIES (Mr. J. Chamberlain, Birmingham, W.): I do not know what the natural price of diamonds is—I should not have thought they had any—and I do not believe that the object of Lord Milner is to benefit a monopolist syndicate of financiers. I am not prepared to prejudge the questions raised by the proposed legislation, and I propose to wait till I receive the Ordinance in its final form together with Lord Milner's observations before I form or express any judgment upon it.

Mr. MARKHAM: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he has received from Lord Milner, Sir A. Lawley, or any other Transvaal official, any despatch, report, letter, or any communication whatsoever relating to the new Diamond Ordinance.

Mr. J. CHAMBERLAIN: I have telegraphed on the subject to Lord Milner, and I am awaiting a full report by mail.

Assam Excise Administration.

Mr. HERBERT ROBERTS (Denbighshire, W.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether he has received the Report of the Inquiry into the Excise administration in Assam; and, if not, whether he will be in a position to give the House information as to the general results of the inquiry before the close of the session.

The UNDER SECRETARY of STATE for INDIA (Earl Percy, Kensington, S.): I have ascertained from the Viceroy that the Report on the Inquiry has not yet been received from the local administration, and that it therefore cannot reach me before the close of the session.

Brussels Sugar Convention.

Mr. LOUGH (Islington, W.): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he can now state what steps have Austria and Hungary taken to meet the demand of the other signatories to the Brussels Convention that the legislation of the empire and kingdom should be altered; what modifications, if any, has the Permanent Commission agreed to make in the charges to be levied on Russian sugar; what are the reasons for any such modification; whether the Government have decided to publish the proceedings of the Permanent Commission; and, in view of the inconvenience to trade of further concealment, when will the resolutions be published, and Papers laid.

The UNDER SECRETARY of STATE for FOREIGN AFFAIRS (Lord Cranborne, Rochester): I am not aware that the countries referred to have taken any steps to alter the legislation to which the hon. Member alludes, but it is to be presumed that the requisite measures will be adopted. The answers to the Questions as to the charges on Russian sugar will be found in the Papers which I hope will be in the hands of the hon. Gentleman this week.

Uganda Railway.

Mr. SAMUEL EVANS (Glamorganshire, Mid): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs if he will lay before the House annually a statement of accounts of the Uganda Railway in the same form and detail as those published by English railway companies, and in addition showing ton mileage and passenger mileage as shown by American railways; whether during the construction of the railway or since it was opened for public traffic any members of the Railway Committee of the Foreign Office have visited the line; if so, did they submit a report or reports to the Secretary of State, and can copies of any such report or reports be furnished to the House.

Lord CRANBORNE: The answer to the first part of the Question is in the affirmative. The statement of account, corresponding in form and detail with those published by English railway companies, and ton-mileage and passenger-mileage figures will be found in the

Reports on the Uganda Railway presented annually to Parliament. The following members of the Uganda Railway Committee have visited the line: Sir Clement Hill in November and December, 1900; Colonel Gracey before he joined the Committee, from December, 1900 to February, 1901; Sir Francis O'Callaghan March and April, 1902; and Sir John Kirk in January, 1903. Reports were submitted by Colonel Gracey and Sir Francis O'Callaghan, and that by the former was presented to Parliament as Africa, No. 6, of 1901.

Comparative Statistics.

MR. HERBERT ROBERTS: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether he can state when the Memorandum of the comparative statistics of population, industry, and commerce in the United Kingdom and some leading foreign countries, prepared by the Board of Trade for 1903, will be issued to Members.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF TRADE (MR. GERALD BALFOUR, Leeds, Central): The Memorandum in question is not an annual publication, and it would not be advisable to prepare a Memorandum in continuation thereof during the present year.

Prices of Wheat in France and the United Kingdom.

MR. HARRIS (Tynemouth): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade if he can state what were respectively the average prices per quarter of 480 pounds of wheat in France and in the United Kingdom for the five years ending the 31st December, 1882, and for the five years ending the 31st December, 1902; and what was the amount of duty per quarter on imported wheat imposed in France during each of these periods.

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: The average price of wheat per quarter in France in the five years 1878–1882 was 49s. 10d., and in the five years 1898–1902, 37s. 3d. The *Gazette* average price of British wheat in England and Wales in the first period was 45s. per quarter, and in the second 28s. 3d. During the five years 1878–1882 the French import duty on wheat was at the rate of 0·60 fr. per 100 kilogs (1s. 0½d. per quarter), and in the five years 1898–1902 7 frs. per 100 kilogs. (12s. 2d. per quarter)

SIR EDGAR VINCENT (Exeter): Is the price given for France the official price?

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: Yes.

MR. WINSTON CHURCHILL (Oldham): I hope this answer will be circulated in the Press.

Cold Storage for Fish.

MR. WEIR (Ross and Cromarty): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade, in view of the large quantity of fresh caught fish annually destroyed owing to lack of facilities to secure prompt transit and ready sale, more especially at the week end, will he consider the expediency of calling for the opinion of experts as to the practicability of establishing cold storage chambers for fish at our leading fishing ports and on steamers employed in the fishing trade; and will the question of devising any other than the present means for the preservation of fresh caught fish be also considered.

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: I am in communication with the Fishmongers Company on the subject of the hon. Member's Question. That body takes great interest in the subject referred to, and exercises important functions in relation thereto. The provision of cold storage chambers is, of course, a matter for private enterprise; but I understand that a large proportion of the fish which is destroyed in hot weather is of little value, and is of such a nature that it could not be advantageously dealt with in the way suggested.

Vaccination Officers and Local Government Board Inspectors.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board if he will state where the rules relating to the conduct of medical inspectors under the Local Government Board are laid down; and will he say whether these inspectors have power to threaten vaccination officers with dismissal.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (Mr. WALTER LONG, Bristol, S.): The medical inspectors visit different parts of the country and carry out the particular directions given to them. There are no fixed rules on the subject. As regards the last part of the Question, the inspectors report to me as to the manner in which vaccination officers carry out the duties of their office, and, in certain cases where it is found that important duties are wilfully neglected, they have been instructed to point out to the officers that similar neglect has been considered by the Department a reason for requiring the resignation of the officer concerned.

Wicklow Land Cases.

MR. JAMES O'CONNOR (Wicklow, W.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he can state when the land cases of tenants residing at Kilbaylet, Kilcoagh, and other districts in West Wicklow, which were to be heard when the Carlow list was gone through two months ago, will be taken up by the Commissioners; and can he explain the cause of the delay in regard to these cases which were entered for hearing eighteen months ago.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND (Mr. WYNDHAM, Dover): All applications received from this district, prior to 1st May, 1902, have been disposed of. Applications received since that date will be listed at the first opportunity.

Labourers (Ireland) Acts.

MR. THOMAS O'DONNELL (Kerry, W.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland what he intends doing with the £50,185 lying to the credit of counties in Ireland in which little or nothing has been done under the Labourers Acts; and whether, considering the needs of the labourers for better houses and more land, and the extent to which certain councils have taxed the ratepayers for this purpose, he would consider the advisability of distributing this sum amongst the counties which have used all the available Exchequer contribution.

MR. WYNDHAM: No portion of this amount could be diverted in the manner suggested, without an amendment of the law. The question of its re-allocation could be raised in any fresh legislation dealing with labourers' cottages.

The Irish Land Bill.

MR. JOHN REDMOND (Waterford): I wish to ask the Prime Minister if we may take it as settled that Friday will be devoted to the Report stage of the Irish Land Bill, and whether in the improbable event that that stage is completed that day, he will take the Third Reading on Monday. I see a statement was made in another place that the Third Reading is not to be taken till the 27th, and I may say that such a long interval would be a source of the greatest inconvenience to the Irish Members.

THE PRIME MINISTER AND FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Mr. A. J. BALFOUR, Manchester, E.): I propose to take the Report stage of the Irish Land Bill on Friday. If that stage is disposed of then I will consider whether I can take the Third Reading of the Bill on Monday next. There are obvious difficulties in the way, but I will do my best to make an arrangement as convenient to the House as I can.

The Indian Budget.

MR. HERBERT ROBERTS: I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether he is in a position to state the date upon which the Indian Budget will be discussed; and whether, having regard to the limited opportunities hitherto afforded this session for the discussion of Indian questions, he will arrange for this debate to take place at as early a date as possible.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I am afraid I am not in a position to name the date, nor am I in a position, in view of the general position of business, to promise an earlier day than is customary for this subject.

Forth and Clyde Canal.

MR. PIRIE (Aberdeen, N.): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether His Majesty's Government propose, on strategic grounds alone, that the question of a ship canal between the

Firths of Forth and Clyde should come before the Committee of Defence; and, if so, has it been considered by that Committee; and, seeing that Colonel Exham is shortly to report on Rosyth as a naval base, whether, on national public grounds, he will cause him to include that question in his Report.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: The Admiralty are perfectly clear, so far as they can form a judgment, that the strategical advantages would not be commensurate with the cost. The inquiry cannot be undertaken at the present moment while much more pressing matters require attention.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES (Lynn Regis): Is that the view of the right hon. Gentleman only, or is it the view of the Committee of Defence?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: It is the view of the Admiralty and my view, shared, I believe, by the Committee of Defence.

MR. PIRIE: The right hon. Gentleman has not stated if the matter has been before the Committee of Defence?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I do not know that it should be regarded as a matter of course that I should say what has or has not been before the Committee of Defence; that was the only reason why I refrained from answering.

The following Question, also on the Paper, was not pressed—

MR. EUGENE WASON (Clackmannan and Kinross): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether, when Mr. Exham goes to Rosyth to report as to the works to be constructed there, he will be instructed to consider the feasibility of a canal being made between the Firths of Forth and Clyde, with a view to his reporting to the Committee on National Defence; and, in the event of the reply being in the affirmative, whether Arrochar or Dumbarton should be chosen as the junction of the canal on the west coast.

The Patriotic Fund.

MR. GALLOWAY (Manchester, S.W.): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether he is aware that the secretary of the Patriotic Fund has sent out an invitation to the various committees throughout the country, formed for the purpose of collecting money for the benefit of the wives and widows of the soldiers during the late war, to attend a conference in order to discuss a proposal for entrusting the money raised by these committees to the Patriotic Fund Commission or to a new central organisation; whether the Government intend to pass the Bill this session dealing with the Patriotic Commission which was promised in His Majesty's gracious speech at the opening of Parliament; if so, when do the Government propose to proceed with the Bill.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: My attention has not been called to the action of the secretary of the fund. The Civil Lord of the Admiralty will introduce the promised Bill on Monday next.

MR. GALLOWAY: And will every effort be made to pass it?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I have every hope that the Bill will prove an uncontroversial measure, as it has no Party aspect, and that it will meet with general approval on both sides of the House.

The Fiscal Inquiry.

*MR. BLACK (Banffshire): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether the Government has determined to give the public the whole facts, statistics, and information collected by His Majesty's Ministers with regard to the inquiry now being undertaken by them.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I cannot give the pledge the hon. Gentleman desires.

*MR. BLACK: May I ask whether any information that is published will be selected independently, of whether or not it supports the divergent views of——

MR. SPEAKER: Order, order!

*MR. BLACK: My Question has not been answered.

MR. SPEAKER: The right hon. Gentleman has answered, though, perhaps, not to the hon. Member's satisfaction.

SIR WILFRID LAWSON (Cornwall, Camborne): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether the Government can arrange to take the evidence of representatives of the great co-operative societies in the fiscal inquiry which is now being carried on.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: Any observations that representatives of co-operative societies may furnish to His Majesty's Government will be most carefully considered.

MR. THEODORE TAYLOR (Lancashire, Radcliffe): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether the proposed inquiry into the fiscal policy of the country will include the question of the desirability of retaliating upon colonial tariffs upon British goods whenever those tariffs are as high or higher than the tariffs levied by foreign countries.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: If any hon. Gentleman desires to make any proposal for retaliatory duties upon colonial tariffs he will have ample opportunity for doing so before any practical steps are taken for carrying out a change in our fiscal policy; but I believe no such proposal will emanate from any Gentleman on this side of the House.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury, in view of a possible change in the fiscal policy of the country, and the consequent importance of raising, in the United Kingdom, as large food supplies as possible, will he state what steps the Government propose to take in order to secure the cultivation of a larger area of land.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I do not see quite clearly the connection between the fiscal inquiry and steps to secure larger cultivation of land.

MR. WEIR: The policy as a whole.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: Perhaps the hon. Gentleman will explain?

MR. WEIR was understood to say that he did not refer to the general fiscal inquiry which was to be held.

[No answer was returned.]

MR. WEIR: I will put down another Question.

SIR M. HICKS BEACH (Bristol, W.): I rise to ask my right hon. friend the First Lord of the Treasury a Question on the business of the House, of which I have given him private notice—whether before the close of the session he will afford an opportunity for the full discussion in this House of the changes proposed by the Colonial Secretary in the fiscal policy of the country, in order that this House may aid the country in that inquiry and discussion to which it has been invited by His Majesty's Ministers, and whether he will do this by granting facilities to my right hon. friend the Member for East Somerset (Mr. H. Hobhouse) to bring forward the Motion which he has placed on the Paper. Perhaps I may, in explanation of the reasons for my Question, remind my right hon. friend that the discussion of this most important subject was precluded by our rules on the Finance Bill, and that Motions for adjournment cannot be held to afford an adequate occasion for the discussion of a matter of this importance.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: In answer to my right hon. friend I have to say that I do not think that any useful purpose would be served by the discussion which he desires to initiate or see initiated—a discussion which would be addressed to no particular Motion on which a vote of Aye or No would carry any direct relation to the subject of debate, and which, therefore, apart from the speeches with which the Motion was accompanied, would not be of much guidance or value to the country. As regards the speeches, I may remind my right hon. friend that, though no doubt it is true that observations on this question on the

Second Reading of the Budget were to a certain extent, and in some cases, hampered by the rules of debate, no one can say that the subject was not dealt with in the lengthy two days' discussion which we had on that subject; and in addition to that we had a debate upon the rising of the House for the Whitsuntide holidays and a subsequent debate on the Motion for the adjournment of the House. These were all occasions on which hon. Gentlemen had an opportunity, and used the opportunity—[Cries of "No, no"]—and used the opportunity—[Cries of "No"]—for making their opinions heard; and I really do not think anything would be gained by adding another to the abstract discussions we have already had on this subject.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN (Stirling Burghs): Are we to understand that the Government do not wish to afford an opportunity to the House for that full discussion—full discussion—of the whole subject to which they were, in express terms, invited by the Colonial Secretary—a subject also which the right hon. Gentleman himself has said has no Party significance; and is the Government of opinion that those absolutely partial and inadequate opportunities to which he refers are all that the House of Commons deserves or will obtain?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: What I said was that I did not think that an abstract discussion directed to no specific Motion would have any practical results. It is always in the right hon. Gentleman's power to see that it is directed to a specific Motion, and if he chooses to take steps to that end I will make it my business to second his efforts.

MR. HENRY HOBHOUSE (Somersetshire, E.): I should like to ask my right hon. friend whether he means by a specific Motion a Motion which can be construed as a Vote of Censure, and whether he considers that that is a form in which a Motion should be put down by his own supporters who desire a discussion on a subject which he has himself assured us is not to be made a test of Party loyalty.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I never suggested that my right hon. friend should put down a Vote of Censure, nor can I conceive it possible that he could ever contemplate such a course. I made the suggestion to the right hon. Gentleman opposite.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES: May I ask will the right hon. Gentleman give facilities for the discussion of a Motion condemning the imposition of a protective tax on the food of the country?

LORD HUGH CECIL (Greenwich): May I ask my right hon. friend what is meant by the invitation to the House "to discuss and inquire" into this subject? We are accepting that invitation.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: Perhaps my noble friend will read out the terms in which the invitation to the House was made?

LORD HUGH CECIL: It was made on the Motion for the adjournment of the House for the Whitsuntide holidays by the Colonial Secretary in express terms.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: I can relieve the mind of the Prime Minister by reading the exact terms of the invitation. The words of the Colonial Secretary were these—

> "It is because it is of immense importance that I ask the House to join eagerly in the discussion."

LORD HUGH CECIL: May I now ask for an answer to my Question?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I was waiting until the enthusiasm which the Question has aroused had ceased. As I understand the matter, that was stated on the Motion for the adjournment on the holidays. There have been many days' discussion since then. I see no reason to abandon the views I have already taken as to the proper course of conducting the business of this House during the short remainder of the session.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: May I ask the right hon. Gentleman on a question not so large as that with which we have been dealing what opportunity he suggests that the House should have, or may have, for discussing the correspondence which has been placed on the Table relating to the fiscal concerns of Canada and Germany ?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR : I do not wish to give an opinion on a point of order, but I should imagine that it would be germane to some of the Votes which we have still to discuss.

SIR WILFRID LAWSON : If we are not to discuss this fiscal matter, may I ask the right hon. Gentleman whether he will lay before this House the same information which has been already promised to the House of Lords ?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR : Yes, of course.

SIR WILFRID LAWSON : When ?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR : The two Houses will not be treated differently in this matter.

BURGH POLICE (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Reported, with Amendments, from the Standing Committee on Law, etc.

Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 258.]

Minutes of the Proceedings of the Standing Committee to be printed. [No. 258.]

Bill, as amended (in the Standing Committee), to be considered upon Monday next, and to be printed. [Bill 277.]

SELECTION (STANDING COMMITTEES).

MR. HALSEY reported from the Committee of Selection: That they had discharged the following Member from the Standing Committee on Law, and Courts of Justice, and Legal Procedure, Mr. Haldane; and had appointed in substitution, Mr. Munro Ferguson.

Report to lie upon the Table.

STANDING COMMITTEES (CHAIRMEN'S PANEL).

Sir JAMES FERGUSSON reported from the Chairmen's Panel; That they had appointed Lord Edmund Fitzmaurice to act as Chairman of the Standing Committee for the consideration of Bills relating to Law, and Courts of Justice, and Legal Procedure, in the place of Mr. John Edward Ellis.

Report to lie upon the Table.

NEW BILL.

EXPIRING LAWS CONTINUANCE BILL.

"To continue various Expiring Laws," presented by Mr. Arthur Elliot; to be read a second time upon Monday next, and to be printed. [Bill 278.]

SITTINGS OF THE HOUSE (EXEMPTION FROM THE STANDING ORDER).

Motion made, and Question put, "That the proceedings on consideration of the London Education Bill, as amended, if under discussion at Twelve o'clock this night, be not interrupted under the Standing Order (Sittings of the House)."—(*Mr. A. J. Balfour.*)

The House divided :—Ayes, 185; Noes, 91. (Division List No. 165.)

AYES.

Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Aubrey-Fletcher, Rt. Hn. Sir H.
Bailey, James (*Walworth*)
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Balcarres, Lord
Baldwin, Alfred
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (*Manch'r*
Balfour, Rt. Hn. G. W. (*Leeds*
Balfour, Kenneth R. (*Christch.*
Bathurst, Hon. Allen Benj.
Beach, Rt. Hon. Sir M. Hicks
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bigwood, James
Bond, Edward
Brassey, Albert
Brodrick, Rt. Hn. St. John
Bull, William James
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Campbell, Rt Hn J A (*Glasg.*)
Campbell, J. H. M. (*Dublin Univ*
Carew, James Laurence
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Carvill, Patrick Geo. Hamilton
Cavendish, V. C W. (*Derbyshire*
Cecil, Lord Hugh (*Greenwich*)
Chamberlain, Rt Hon J (*Birm*
Chamberlain, Rt. Hn. J A (*Worc*
Chapman, Edward
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Clive, Captain Percy A.
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colston, Chas. Edw H. Athole
Craig, Charles Curtis (*Antrim S.*
Cranborne, Viscount
Cross, Alexander (*Glasgow*)
Cross, Herb. Shepherd (*Bolton*)
Crossley, Rt. Hon. Sir Savile
Denny, Colonel
Dickinson, Robert Edmond

Dimsdale Rt. Hn. Sir Joseph C.
Dixon-Hartland, Sir Fred Dixon
Doughty, George
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers
Doxford, Sir Wm. Theodore
Duke, Henry Edward
Egerton, Hon. A. de Tatton
Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas
Fardell, Sir T. George
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
FitzGerald, Sir Robt. Penrose-
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Flower, Ernest
Forster, Henry William
Fyler, John Arthur
Galloway, William Johnson
Gardner, Ernest
Gibbs, Hn. Vicary (*St. Albans*
Godson, Sir Augustus Frederick
Gordon, Hn J E (*Elgin and N'rn*
Gordon, Maj Evans (*Tr. Hmlts*
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Greene, Sir E. W. (*Bury St. Ed.*
Greene, Henry D. (*Shrewsbury*
Greene, W. Raymond (*Cambs*
Groves, James Grimble
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Gunter, Sir Robert
Guthrie, Walter Murray
Hamilton, Rt. Hn. Ld. G. (*Mid'x*
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Harris, Frederick Leverton
Hatch, Ernest Frederick Geo.
Heath, James (*Staffords., N. W.*
Helder, Augustus
Hobhouse, Rt Hn H (*Somrst E*
Hogg, Lindsay
Hoult, Joseph
Howard, John (*Kent, Faversh'm*
Howard, J. (*Midd., Tottenham*
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Jameson, Major J. Eustace
Jeffreys, Rt. Hn. Arthur Fred
Jessel, Captain Herbert Merton
Johnstone, Heywood
Kemp, Lieut.-Col. George
Kennedy, Patrick James
Kenyon, Hon. G. T. (*Denbigh*
Kenyon-Slaney, Col. W. (*Salop*
Kerr, John
Keswick, William
Knowles, Lees
Lambton, Hon. Fredk. Wm.
Law, Andrew Bonar (*Glasgow*
Lawson, John Grant (*Yorks. N R*
Lees, Sir Elliott (*Birkenhead*)
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Lockwood, Lieut.-Col. A. R.
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Long, Col. Chas. W. (*Evesham*
Long, Rt. Hn. W. (*Bristol, S.*)
Lowe, Francis William
Lowther, C. (*Cumb., Eskdale*)
Lucas, Col. Francis (*Lowestoft*
MacIver, David (*Liverpool*)
Maconochie, A. W.
M'Iver, Sir Lewis (*Edinburgh W*
M'Killop, James (*Stirlingshire*
M'Killop, W. (*Sligo, North*)
Meysey-Thompson, Sir H. M.
Milvain, Thomas
Montagu, G. (*Huntingdon*)
Morgan, David J (*Walthamstow*
Morton, Arthur H. Aylmer
Mount, William Arthur
Mowbray, Sir Robt. Gray C.
Murray, Rt. Hn A. Graham (*Bute*
Murray, Col. Wyndham (*Bath*)
Nicholson, William Graham
Nolan, Col. John P. (*Galway, N.*
Orr-Ewing, Charles Lindsay
Palmer, Walter (*Salisbury*)
Peel, Hn Wm. Robert Wellesley
Pemberton, John S. G.
Penn, John
Percy, Earl
Pierpoint, Robert
Pilkington, Colonel Richard
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Plummer, Walter R.
Pretyman, Ernest George
Pym, C. Guy
Randles, John S.
Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
Rattigan, Sir William Henry
Reid, James (*Greenock*)
Remnant, Jas. Farquharson
Renshaw, Sir Charles Bine
Renwick, George
Ritchie, Rt. Hn. Chas. Thomson
Roberts, Samuel (*Sheffield*)
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Rutherford, John (*Lancashire*)
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford
Sadler, Col. Saml. Alexander
Samuel, Harry S. (*Limehouse*)
Scott, Sir S. (*Marylebone, W.*)
Seely, Chas. Hilton (*Lincoln*)
Simeon, Sir Barrington
Smith, Abel H. (*Hertford, East*
Smith, Jas. Parker (*Lanarks*)
Smith, Hn. W. F. D. (*Strand*)
Stanley, E. Jas. (*Somerset*)
Stanley, Lord (*Lancs.*)
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Talbot, Lord E. (*Chichester*
Taylor, Austin (*East Toxteth*)
Tollemache, Henry James
Tomlinson, Sir Wm. E. M.
Valentia, Viscount
Vincent, Sir Edgar (*Exeter*)
Walrond, Rt. Hn. Sir Wm. H.
Wanklyn, James Leslie
Webb, Col. William George
Welby, Lt.-Col. A. C. E (*Taunton*
Welby, Sir Chas. G. E. (*Notts*)
Willoughby de Eresby, Lord
Wilson, John (*Falkirk*)
Wilson, John (*Glasgow*)
Wilson-Todd, W. H. (*Yorks.*)
Wodehouse, Rt Hn. E. R. (*Bath*)
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Worsley-Taylor, Henry Wilson
Wortley, Rt. Hn. C. B. Stuart
Wylie, Alexander
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Wyndham-Quin, Major W. H.

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Mr. Anstruther.

NOES

Allen, Charles P (*Glouc., Stroud*
Asher, Alexander
Asquith, Rt. Hon. Herbt. Hy.
Beaumont, Wentworth C. B.
Black, Alexander William
Broadhurst, Henry
Bryce, Right Hon. James
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Burt, Thomas
Buxton, Sydney Charles
Caldwell, James
Cameron, Robert
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Causton, Richard Knight
Cawley, Frederick
Channing, Francis Allston
Crombie, John William
Crooks, William
Davies, Alfred (*Carmarthen*)
Davies, M. Vaughan (*Cardigan*
Dewar, John A. (*Inverness-sh.*)
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Douglas, Charles M. (*Lanark*)
Duncan, J. Hastings
Edwards, Frank
Elibank, Master of
Ellis, John Edward
Emmott, Alfred
Evans, Sir Francis H (*Maidstone*
Evans, Saml. T. (*Glamorgan*)
Fenwick, Charles
Ferguson, R. C. Munro (*Leith*
Foster, Sir Michl. (*Lond. Univ*
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Fuller, J. M. F.
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Harwood, George
Hayne, Rt. Hn. Charles Seale-
Hemphill, Rt. Hn. Charles H.
Hobhouse, C. E. H. (*Bristl, E*
Hope, John Deans (*Fife, West*)
Humphreys-Owen, Arthur C.
Hutchinson, Dr. Charles Fredk
Hutton, Alfred E. (*Morley*)
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jones, Wm. (*Carnarvonshire*)
Kitson, Sir James
Labouchere, Henry
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (*Cornwall*
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leng, Sir John
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, David
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J
M'Laren, Sir Charles Benj.
Markham, Arthur Basil
Mellor, Rt. Hn. John William
Mitchell, Edw. (*Fermanagh, N.*
Morgan, J. Lloyd (*Carmarthen*
Palmer, Sir C. M. (*Durham*)
Partington, Oswald
Paulton, James Mellor
Pirie, Duncan V.
Priestley, Arthur
Rea, Russell
Rickett, J. Compton
Roberts, John H. (*Denbighs.*)
Robertson, Edmund (*Dundee*)

Roe, Sir Thomas
Russell, T. W.
Samuel, Herbt. L. (*Cleveland*)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair, John (*Forfarshire*)
Soares, Ernest J.
Spencer, Rt Hn C. R. (*Northants*
Stevenson, Francis S.
Taylor, Theodore C. (*Radcliffe*
Tennant, Harold John
Thomas, Sir A. (*Glam., E.*)
Thomas, David A. (*Merthyr*)
Thomson, F. W. (*York, W. R.*
Tomkinson, James
Toulmin, George
Wason, E. (*Clackmannan*)
Wason, J. Cathcart (*Orkney*)
Weir, James Galloway
White, George (*Norfolk*)
Whitley, J. H. (*Halifax*)
Williams, O. (*Merioneth*)
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Lough and Mr. Mansfield.

LONDON EDUCATION BILL.

As amended, further considered.

On the second proviso to Sub-section 1 of Clause 2 (Provision as to management and sites of provided schools)—"Provided also that due regard shall be had to the inclusion of women on the said bodies of managers."

MR. PEEL (Manchester, S.) moved to leave out "Provided also that," and insert "but." He added that it was a purely drafting Amendment.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 1, line 15, to leave out the words 'provided also that' and insert the word 'but.'"—(*Mr. Peel.*)

Amendment agreed to.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON (Tower Hamlets, Poplar), on behalf of the hon. Member for East Nottingham, moved to leave out all the words after "that" and insert "not less than one-third of the managers appointed by each appointing authority shall be women." He said he thought this Amendment better than the one he had himself put on the Paper. This question had been discussed several times, and there appeared to be a general consensus of opinion, from which the hon. Gentleman in charge of the Bill had not dissented, that there should be some security provided in the Bill for a considerable proportion of women to be members of the Managing Committees. At the present moment, of the 1,700 managers, 550 were women. It was important to secure that a large proportion of women should be appointed to the boards of management. Not only were two-thirds of the teachers women, but two-thirds of the children were girls and infants who should come under the care of women managers. Some statutory provision was all the more necessary by reason of the fact that certain local bodies had interpreted the Act of last year to mean that one woman member only was necessary.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 1, line 15, to leave out from the last Amendment to the end of line 16, and insert the words "not less than one-third of the managers appointed by each appointing authority shall be women."—(*Mr. Sydney Buxton.*)

Question proposed, "That the words 'due regard shall be had' stand part of the Bill."

SIR JOHN GORST (Cambridge University) supported the Amendment. He said it was a proposal of a practical character; and had the strong recommendation that it would perpetuate the existing state of things. The London School Board had been in existence for thirty-three years, and under it there had grown up a system of management in which about one-third of the managers were women. It was most essential that that state of things should be preserved. During his official experience he had always thought that the number of women engaged in the management of schools was far too few. A large proportion of our so-called schools were not schools at all, but nurseries in which the children of the poor were taken care of and amused, and a certain amount of intellectual exercise was given to them. The care of those nurseries was essentially women's business, and they would not allow a state of things to prevail—as did now in some cases—in which these poor little children of three, four or five years, were put through a course of reading, writing and arithmetic much more suitable for older children. The House ought also to consider the case of girls' schools, which were presided over almost entirely by women teachers. There were various things in connection with those schools, such for instance as sanitation, with which only women managers could properly deal·

Certainly in girls' schools it was most essential for the superintendence of the schools and the wise spending of money that they must insist on a considerable number of women being appointed as managers. On all these grounds, he hoped the hon. Baronet would give a definite answer to the proposal to insert in the Bill some provision which would secure a definite number of women on the boards of management.

*SIR WILLIAM ANSON said that the right hon. Gentleman had been preaching to the converted. There was no question in any part of the House as to the desirability of securing the presence of women on the boards of management. He, however, objected to any fixed proportion or number being put into the Bill. The number of one-third as a minimum would almost inevitably become the maximum, and one-third might turn out to be extremely inconvenient. Something had been said as to the impossibility of women being chosen by the local educational authority, but it was a very different matter to ask women to attend meetings of the Education Committees of the County Council where they would have to make periodically long journeys. The conditions were so different that no conclusion could be drawn as to the number of women who should be placed on the boards of management of Borough Council schools. He understood that the right hon. Gentleman wanted to perpetuate the existing system. He desired to do the same thing, and they would better attain that purpose by adopting the Amendment of the hon. Member for South Manchester. In the case of any difference between the two local authorities reference could be made to the Board of Education. There was no compulsion on the School Board to appoint women, and no one would deny that the School Board made very fair and reasonable provision for women being on the boards of management; and was there any doubt that the London County Council would not do the same? He, himself, had no doubt whatever. The old practice would go on, and if there was a difference of opinion — he thought that the local education authority would be more insistent than the Borough Councils on having women on the boards of management— an appeal could be made to the Board of Education which was now, and always would be, in sympathy with the idea that women should be largely represented on the boards of management, and which would give them the necessary guidance. He would oppose the Amendment of the hon. Member for Poplar and support that of the hon. Member for South Manchester.

MR. BRYCE (Aberdeen S.) said he regretted the decision of the hon. Baronet. He did not think that the hon. Gentleman's arguments, when examined, would be proved to be sound. The hon. Gentleman began by asking, "Why not give the same latitude to the local authorities as was given to the present School Board?" But it should be remembered that the School Board had always had women as elected members, and elected members had a position of authority and a *status* which co-opted members never had. Moreover, the number of elected women members had tended to increase, which showed how necessary and efficient was the system. They could not have the same reliance on a body like the Borough Councils, which contained no women, securing the due presence of women on the boards of management, as they had had in the case of the School Board. Therefore, there was a very clear and strong distinction between the experience of the past, to which the Parliamentary Secretary appealed, and the case of the future. Then, the hon. Baronet said that a reason why women would not be appointed more frequently on the boards of management was because of the long journeys they would have to make; but surely that was a question for the women themselves to decide. When, after all the pious expressions of opinion last year as to the necessity of women being on the boards of management, they found that so little had been done by the County Councils and the Borough Councils in that direction, that was the strongest proof that they should have something far more than the Board of Education proposed to give them. The House should remember that as two-thirds of these managers would be chosen by the Borough Councils, and as the Borough Councils would have no women upon them, there was far less chance now of women being appointed. He did not like the suggestion that it should be left to the Board of Education to impose compulsion on the two local authorities. Suppose one authority did not want any women, and that the other authority said they wanted so many, why bring in this bone of contention between the two authorities, and between both of them and the Board of Education? He thought it was far better for the House to lay down an irreducible minimum; and no one could say that the minimum proposed in the Amendment was too large. He could not for a moment accept the suggestion of the Parliamentary Secretary, and he hoped the hon. Member for Poplar would divide on the matter. It ought to be put on record that they were not satisfied with what was suggested by the Government.

MR. HENRY HOBHOUSE (Somersetshire, E.) said he quite agreed with the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Aberdeen South. His experience of the working of last year's Act rendered it necessary that there should be something more in the Bill than was proposed by the hon. Member for South Manchester. They knew that the schemes sanctioned by the Board of Education simply resulted in one woman being appointed on a board of forty or sixty persons. It should be remembered that the great proportion of the new managers would be appointed by the Borough Councils. The Borough Councils were excellent bodies in their way, but they had strenuously resisted any women being admitted into their ranks. He remembered the hard fight for the admission of women into the Borough Councils in the debates on the London Local Government Act a few years ago, when it was decided in the other House, and afterwards accepted in this House, that no women should be put on the Borough Councils. If women had been admitted to these Councils it would not have been found nearly so necessary, in the present circumstances, to press for a minimum number of women being made school managers. He would remind the Parliamentary Secretary, who was so sympathetic on this subject, that there would have to be consultations between the two local authorities, and there would not be the least difficulty in their arriving at a conclusion as to which of them was to put the women on the boards of management. He did not feel so strongly in regard to the exact proportion; but if no substantial concession was made by the Government, he should be bound to vote for the Amendment, which embodied the principle that women should be, in the future as in the past, managers. As the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Cambridge University had said, many of the schools were nurseries, and a large proportion of the teachers were women, and it was far better that the women teachers should bring their grievances to a woman than to a man.

MR. YOXALL (Nottingham, W.) said he ventured to compliment the Parliamentary Secretary on the facility and ease he had acquired in giving Ministerial answers in the negative. The hon. Baronet preferred an Amendment by the hon. Member for South Manchester which did not specifically mention women, but which gave the Board of Education the right to interfere in cases where women were not elected. The Act of last year expressly mentioned women, but, as had been shown, the Board of Education in their schemes only approved of one woman.

*SIR WILLIAM ANSON said that although the schemes only mentioned one woman as necessary, there were generally various other persons whose sex was not mentioned. There was, therefore, no reason to suppose that the presence of women was not desired by the Board of Education.

MR. YOXALL said that although there were two women on several Committees, and three on others, and even as many as five on some, still it was a very small proportion out of a total number of sixty or seventy. Having regard to the fact that the bulk of the teachers belonged to the sex they were now discussing, the bulk of the managers ought to belong to the same sex. But for business and other reasons that could not be obtained, and therefore the House ought to lay down in set terms that there should be a minimum proportion of women Every attempt in this direction in the past had failed, because the matter had been left to the good sense of the appointing authority or the overruling powers of the Board of Education. If the Parliamentary Secretary was anxious—and he believed he was—that women should be represented, he did not see any good reason why he should not now say that a certain proportion of the managers should be women.

MR. BOND (Nottingham, E.) said that he had put an Amendment on the Paper making the proportion of women one-third of the managers, because he was informed, and he believed correctly, that the women on the boards of managers under the London School Board were about one-third of the whole number. He thought one-third was not at all an undue proportion. On the one hand it would enable them to render the services they very efficiently could, and on the other hand it would satisfy the natural desires of those who had been associated with work of this kind to continue to take their proper share in the work. Having regard to the services rendered by them in the past to the School Board, it would be a good thing for the education of London if it were made quite plain in the Bill that there should be a due proportion of women managers in the future. The hon. Baronet said that the proportion of one-third would be a minimum which might become a maximum; but he ventured to think that women would be satisfied with it, and would not be likely to ask for more. If any other proportion than one-third were suggested he would be prepared to consider it. Unless, however, a fixed proportion were provided in the Bill, a great deal of red tape would be introduced. He thought the House was much too regardless of the effect of the legislation which it passed. For himself, whenever he got an opportunity, he was always anxious to put things as clearly as possible; and in that way to avoid the supererogatory work which indefinite legislation brought about. For that reason he preferred that a definite proportion should be specified; and he hoped his hon. friend would be able to accept the Amendment.

MR. J. H LEWIS (Flint Boroughs) said he hoped the Government would see their way to respond to the appeal which had been made in regard to this question. The feeling was strongly shared on both sides of the House that women should have a definite sphere of work assigned to them. Unless some proportion were definitely mentioned in the Bill, he was afraid that women would not be able to obtain that share in the work of education to which they were justly entitled. The Parliamentary Secretary said that it would be dangerous to put in a precise proportion in the Bill; but it would be equally dangerous to leave it out. When the Act of last year was in Committee, he moved an Amendment providing that at least one member of the local managing body should be a woman; but that was opposed by the Prime Minister, principally on the ground that it might as well be proposed that at least one member of the managing body should be a man. They, however, knew, as a matter of fact, that the proportion of women on the Local Education Committees was disgracefully small; and in some cases women were excluded altogether from the management of the schools, although one-half of the scholars were girls, and a considerable proportion of the boys were infants. Men understood very little about the education of infants; whereas, women were entitled to the consideration of the House for the share they had already taken in the educational work of the country. Women were better workers in the educational field than men. They attended the meetings better, and did their work more conscientiously. He had obtained statistics to support that view. The average number of the attendances of the women members of the London School Board in 1901 was 163, the average attendance of the male members being 115. At the thirty-four meetings of the Board the attendances of the nine women members were thirty-four, thirty-four, thirty-three, thirty-two, thirty-two, thirty-two, thirty-three, twenty-nine, and twenty-four. That showed that the lady members of the Board paid very close attention indeed to their work. The House had decided that a certain number of members should be appointed by the Borough Councils. But the Borough Councils had not that experience with reference to the educational work of women which the London School Board and the London

County Council had; and a considerable amount of prejudice would exist, with the result that a small number of women would be appointed. He thought it was absolutely necessary, in such circumstances, that the House should lay down a definite proportion as to the number of women to be appointed.

*MR. COHEN (Islington, E.) said he was surprised that most of the hon. Members who had spoken had addressed the greater part of their arguments to the necessity — it was more than expediency—of having women on the boards of management. No one objected to that; and, therefore, the only question before the House was how the object which they all desired could be best achieved. The point at issue was whether it was necessary, or even advisable, to lay down a hard and fast rule. He submitted that it would not only be not advisable, but would be extremely inadvisable, to fetter the local education authority by any scheme obliging them to appoint a certain proportion of women members, and not allow them full liberty of choice in a matter about which, he believed, no apprehension need be entertained. His right hon. friend the Member for East Somerset said that it would be advisable to support the Amendment in order to secure the perpetuation of the existing system, and he had apprehensions about women being appointed on the ground that the Borough Councils would be disinclined to act in that direction. He felt bound to protest against that groundless reflection on the Borough Councils.

MR. J. H. LEWIS said that the statement was based on the action of the Borough Councils in the country.

*MR. COHEN said that the Borough Councils in the country might have imperfectly discharged their duties; but was that any reason for making a statement concerning the Borough Councils of London based, not on past neglect, but on possible future neglect? There was no body so directly interested in the managerial machinery of the schools of their own district as the Borough Councils, and the House need not be apprehensive that their action would be against the presence of these women; their influence would be in the exactly opposite direction. The influence of the Borough Councils in this matter was the most perfect guarantee they could have in favour of securing this provision. The hon. Member for South Manchester seemed to think the London Borough Councils would not have the same view as the London County Council as to the value of these women, but he was quite sure that they had a perfect conviction of the necessity of the presence of women on these bodies, and as regards experience the London County Council and the Borough Councils stood in identically the same position. Whatever doubt might be entertained as to the Borough Councils, the same doubt must be entertained with regard to the London County Council. He thought, in the interest of the people, the provision with regard to the presence of women ought to be left to the free and unfettered discretion of the Borough Councils.

MR. EMMOTT (Oldham) was unable to see, if the Borough Councils were such extraordinarily enlightened bodies, and if they agreed to the proposition that women should become members of these Committees, why they should not be tied down to the terms of the Amendment. Those who supported this Amendment were very disappointed with the number of women who were put on these Committees under the Act of last year, and they desired to amend that point so far as London was concerned. The question they had to consider was, whether a hard and fast line would be better than that an inadequate number of women should be on these boards. He did not think, if this matter was left to the discretion of Borough Councils, an adequate number of women would be put on, and therefore he desired to have a hard and fast line. He did not care very much what the proportion was; if "one-third" was too much let them make it "one-fourth." He objected to a new bone of contention being thrown down for the Board of Education to decide. The hands of the Board of Education were pretty full already, and he did not know why they should be so greedy of having points to decide which might be very well dealt with by this House. He heartily supported the Amendment.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (Mr. WALTER LONG, Bristol, W.) said there was no difference of opinion between the different speakers on the main question as to the advantage to be derived from the presence of women on these boards. The only question was, whether they should leave it to the local authority to elect women, and as many as they thought fit, or whether they should be compelled to elect a statutory number. It was suggested that one-third of these bodies should be women. That seemed to be undesirable from two points of view. What they wanted to do was to get a fair proportion of the most experienced and best women available for the whole area. As it was undesirable to prolong the debate, he would suggest as a compromise that instead of being one-third of each of the appointed bodies, they should be one-third of the Committee as a whole. As a matter of drafting, he thought it ought to come a little lower down in the clause. The Government would leave it to the House to say whether the number should be fixed in the Bill, or left to the discretion of the Borough Councils.

DR. MACNAMARA (Camberwell, N.) thought that such a suggestion could be agreed to without going to a division.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 1, line 16, after the word 'women,' to insert the words 'in the proportion of not less than one-third of the whole body of managers.'"—(*Mr. Bond.*)

Amendment agreed to.

MR. PEEL said the next Amendment was only a verbal one. He begged to move.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 1, line 15, after the word 'had' to insert the words 'in selecting managers.'"—(*Mr. Peel.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Mr. Emmott.

DR. MACNAMARA said the last word of the clause was now "managers," and he desired to insert after managers, "and members chosen from the existing body of managers." He hoped the Government would accept this, as it was consonant with the frequently expressed desires of the Government.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"After the last Amendment to insert the words 'and members chosen from the existing body of managers.'"—(*Dr. Macnamara.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted in the Bill."

*SIR WILLIAM ANSON thought the object of the hon. Member would be better met by the Amendment to be proposed by the hon. Member for South Manchester.

DR. MACNAMARA said that if the hon. Baronet preferred the form of words suggested by the hon. Member for South Manchester, he would withdraw his Amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. PEEL thought it unnecessary to detain the House by speaking in support of the Amendment of which he had given notice, and therefore formally moved.

Amendment moved to the Bill—

"After the last Amendment to insert the words 'and, in the case of the first body of managers, also of members chosen from the then existing bodies of managers, and the Borough Council and the local education authority shall carry out any directions given by the Board of Education for the purpose of giving effect to this provision.'"—(*Mr. Peel.*)

Amendment agreed to.

MR. LOUGH (Islington, W.) thought it possible that a deadlock might arise in certain cases, unless some such proviso as he suggested were inserted. He therefore moved.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"After the words last inserted to insert the words 'provided also that until new groups are arranged and new managers are appointed the existing groups of schools and the existing managers shall be continued.'"—(*Mr. Lough.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted in the Bill."

*SIR WILLIAM ANSON hesitated to accept the Amendment, as it would put an inducement before the authorities not to bring the provisions of the Bill into operation as quickly as they might. There would be no difficulty in preparing before the appointed day to appoint bodies of managers, nor was there any danger of a deadlock. However, if the hon. Member would withdraw the Amendment, he would undertake to look carefully into the matter, and if such a danger existed, to see that words were inserted.

MR. BRYCE thought there was a possibility of difficulty arising, unless such a proviso as was suggested by the Amendment were inserted. If people were not ready it would be a reason for making the appointed day later.

MR. LOUGH, in view of the hon. Baronet's promise, asked leave to withdraw the Amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. LOUGH moved to omit Sub-section (2). He thought it would be much better to drop the sub-section than to attempt to amend it. The Government evidently thought it was not in a satisfactory condition, as the hon. Baronet had a substantial Amendment on the Paper in reference to it. The Borough Councils had their share of authority in the appointment of managers; why then should they be brought into the question of the selection of sites? It was a most difficult matter, and one that should be carried on secretly, so that there was no chance of jobbery; consequently it was very undesirable that it should be discussed between several bodies. He believed the consensus of opinion was against the sub-section, and he hoped the Government would agree to drop it.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 1, line 17, to leave out Sub-section (2)."—(*Mr. Lough.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out to the word 'be' in line 23, stand part of the Bill."

*SIR WILLIAM ANSON thought the sub-section with the Amendment he would subsequently propose could do no harm, and might do a considerable amount of good. There was no doubt that the question of sites excited a great deal of interest, but if the hon. Member read the clause carefully he would see that there was no possibility of jobbery such as he had suggested. All that was required was that a site should not be determined upon until the Borough Council had been consulted, and that in the case of compulsory purchase if there was difference of opinion the Board of Education should not make an order authorising the purchase unless they were satisfied that the concurrence of the Borough Council should be dispensed with. He thought this was really a matter in which the opinion of the locality ought to be consulted, though it did not necessarily follow that that opinion would carry the day or be accepted by the local authority or the Board of Education.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON regretted the decision of the hon. Baronet. This proposal was part of the original scheme under which the local bodies were to have the management of the schools, and under such circumstances there was much to be said in favour of the Borough Councils having a considerable voice in the selection of sites. But the Councils were no longer in that position, and the reason for them having a voice in the matter had disappeared. He hoped, therefore, the Government would agree to drop the sub-section. The acquisition of sites involved large expenditure, and the School Board by private negotiations had frequently been able to secure sites at 20, 30, or 50 per cent. less than they would have had to pay had their intentions been publicly announced. If the Borough Councils had to be consulted secrecy would be impossible, and the knowledge that a certain site was wanted would certainly enhance the price. The London County Council were in touch with the Borough Councils, and, in the event of any dispute as to a site, could invite local members to attend the Committee privately, and thus avoid the matter becoming public. Unless this sub-section disappeared from the

Bill there was every probability of the ratepayers being mulcted in a much larger sum than would otherwise be the case.

Mr. WHITMORE (Chelsea) said he hoped the Government would adhere to this sub-section. He thought the Borough Councils should be consulted in regard to the selection of sites for new public elementary schools. This sub-section certainly made it clear that in a matter of this kind in which local knowledge was of great importance the site should not be determined upon until after consultation with the Borough Council

Dr. MACNAMARA said that as the Bill originally stood the Borough Council had to select the site, but the Government saw that would be unworkable, and they provided that the Borough Council should be consulted and in case the Borough Council disagreed with the education authority the Board of Education had power to substitute any other site proposed by the Borough Council. What the hon. Member for Chelsea put forward as reasonable was done at the present time. Since the existence of the Borough Councils there was not a case where they had not been consulted as to the best place for erecting a school. There were, however, words in the last part of the hon. Baronet's proposed Amendment which he did not quite understand and which he was afraid would lead to interminable delay. The words he alluded to were—

> "And in such a case shall make a special report to Parliament, stating their reasons for dispensing with that concurrence."

An interminable debate would then take place, promoted by the Borough Council. At the present time it took four or five years to provide a new school, and if this new procedure were adopted it might run to an interminable number of years.

Mr. HARRY SAMUEL (Tower Hamlets, Limehouse) thought the hon. Member for North Camberwell was quite right in saying that there had been communications with the Borough Councils in all cases in reference to the selection of sites since the Councils were called into existence. He wished to say, however, that he had not found that kind consideration for the wishes of the locality indicated by the hon. Member opposite, because in his constituency the School Board had ridden rough shod over the Borough Council, and they had selected sites which were of the greatest importance for the accommodation of the poor people when others might have been chosen. It was quite right that the Borough Council should have some voice in the matter.

Captain JESSEL (St. Pancras, S.) said that in regard to sites, all sorts of communications passed between the central and the local authority, but the matter was dealt with by the various committees and the Council knew nothing about it until it was practically settled. He did not attach much importance to the proposed Amendment of the Secretary to the Board of Education, because it was only a matter of machinery. He thought, however, that the local authorities ought to be consulted.

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 201; Noes, 104. (Division List No. 166.)

AYES.

Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Aird, Sir John
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Aubrey-Fletcher, Rt. Hn. Sir H.
Bagot, Capt. Josceline FitzRoy
Bailey, James (*Walworth*)
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Baird, John George Alexander
Balcarres, Lord
Baldwin, Alfred
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (*Manch'r*
Balfour, RtHnGeraldW. (*Leeds*
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Bathurst, Hn. Allen Benjamin
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bill, Charles
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bond, Edward
Brassey, Albert
Brown, Sir Alx. H. (*Shropsh.*)
Campbell, Rt Hn J A (*Glasg.*)
Campbell, JHM. (*Dublin Univ*
Carew, James Laurence
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Cavendish, V. C. W. (*Derbyshire*
Cayzer, Sir Charles William
Cecil, Evelyn (*Aston Manor*)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (*Greenwich*)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hn. J. (*Birm.*)
Chamberlain, RtHn. JA (*Worc.*
Chapman, Edward
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Clive, Captain Percy A.
Cochrane, Hon. T. H. A. E.
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Cohen, Benjamin Louis

Collings, Right Hon. Jesse
Colomb, Sir John Chas. Ready
Colston, Chas. Edw. H. Athole
Cox, Irwin Edward Bainbridge
Cranborne, Viscount
Cross, Herb. Shepherd (*Bolton*
Crossley, Rt. Hon. Sir Savile
Denny, Colonel
Dewar, Sir T. R. (*Tower Hamlets*
Dickinson, Robert Edmond
Dimsdale, Rt. Hn. Sir Joseph C.
Dixon-Hartland, Sir Fred Dixon
Donelan, Captain A.
Doughty, George
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers
Doxford, Sir Wm. Theodore
Duke, Henry Edward
Elliot, Hn. A, Ralph Douglas
Faber, George Denison (*York*
Fardell, Sir T. George
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Ed.
Fergusson, Rt. Hn. Sir J. (*Man'r*
Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
Finch, Rt. Hn. George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
FitzGerald, Sir Robert Penrose
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Flower, Ernest
Forster, Henry William
Galloway, William Johnson
Gardner, Ernest
Gibbs, Hn. Vicary (*St. Albans*
Godson, Sir Augustus Frederick
Gordon, Hn. J E (*Elgin & Nairn*
Gore, Hn G. R C. Ormsby- (*Salop*
Gore, Hn. S. F. Ormsby- (*Linc*
Goschen, Hon. Geo. Joachim
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Graham, Henry Robert
Greene, Sir E. W. (*Bury St. Ed.*
Greene, W. Raymond- (*Cambs*
Grenfell, William Henry
Groves, James Grimble
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Gunter, Sir Robert
Guthrie, Walter Murray
Hardy, Laurence (*Kent, Ashfd*
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Harris, Frederick Leverton
Haslam, Sir Alfred S.
Hatch, Ernest Frederick Geo.
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Heath, James (*Staffords. N. W.*
Heaton, John Henniker
Helder, Augustus
Hogg, Lindsay
Hoult, Joseph
Howard, John (*Kent, Faversh'm*
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Jessel, Captain Herbert Merton
Johnstone, Heywood
Kennedy, Patrick James
Kenyon, Hon. G. T. (*Denbigh*
Kenyon-Slaney, Col. W. (*Salop*
Kerr, John
Knowles, Lees
Lambton, Hn. Frederick Wm.
Law, Andrew Bonar (*Glasgow*)
Lawson, John Grant (*Yorks, N. R*
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Llewellyn, Evan Henry
Lockwood, Lieut-Col. A. R.
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Long, Col. Charles W. (*Evesham*
Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (*Bristol, S*
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lowe, Francis William
Lowther, C. (*Cumb., Eskdale*)
Lowther, Rt. Hn. James (*Kent*
Lucas, Col. Francis (*Lowestoft*
Lucas, Reg'ld J. (*Portsmouth*)
Macdona, John Cumming
M'Iver, Sir Lewis (*Edinburgh W*
M'Killop, James (*Stirlingshire*
Malcolm, Ian
Melville, Beresford Valentine
Meysey-Thompson, Sir H. M.
Milvain, Thomas
Mitchell, William (*Burnley*)
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
Morgan, David J. (*Walth'mstow*
Morton, Arthur H. Aylmer
Mount, William Arthur
Murray, Rt Hn A. Graham (*Bute*
Murray, Col. Wyndham (*Bath*
Myers, William Henry
Nicholson, William Graham
Nolan, Col. John P. (*Galway, N*
O'Connor, Jas. (*Wicklow, W.*)
Orr-Ewing, Charles Lindsay
Palmer, Walter (*Salisbury*)
Peel, Hn Wm. Robert Wellesley
Pemberton, John S. G.
Percy, Earl
Pierpoint, Robert
Pilkington, Col. Richard
Plummer, Walter R.
Pretyman, Ernest George
Randles, John S.
Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
Ratcliff, R. F.
Rattigan, Sir William Henry
Redmond, Jn. E. (*Waterford*)
Reid, James (*Greenock*)
Remnant, James Farquharson
Renshaw, Sir Charles Bine
Renwick, George
Ritchie, Rt. Hn. Chas. Thomson
Roberts, Samuel (*Sheffield*)
Robertson, Herbert (*Hackney*)
Rutherford, John (*Lancashire*
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford-
Sadler, Col. Samuel Alexander
Samuel, Harry S. (*Limehouse*)
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Scott, Sir S. (*Marylebone, W.*)
Seely, Chas. Hilton (*Lincoln*)
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Shaw-Stewart, M. H. (*Renfrew*
Simeon, Sir Barrington
Sinclair, Louis (*Romford*)
Smith, Abel H. (*Hertford, East*
Smith, H. C (*North'mb, Tyneside*
Smith, James Parker (*Lanarks*)
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (*Strand*
Stanley, Lord (*Lancs.*)
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Stroyan, John
Talbot, Lord E. (*Chichester*)
Tomlinson, Sir Wm. E. M.
Tritton, Charles Ernest
Valentia, Viscount
Vincent, Sir Edgar (*Exeter*)
Walrond, Rt. Hn. Sir Wm. H.
Webb, Colonel William George
Welby, Lt-Col. A C E. (*Taunton*)
Welby, Sir Charles G. E. (*Notts*
Whiteley, H (*Ashton und. Lyne*
Whitmore, Charles Algernon
Willoughby de Eresby, Lord
Willox, Sir John Archibald
Wilson, A. Stanley (*York, E. R.*
Wilson, John (*Falkirk*)
Wilson, John (*Glasgow*)
Wilson-Todd, Wm. H. (*Yorks*)
Wodehouse, Rt. Hn. E. R. (*Bath*
Worsley-Taylor, Henry Wilson
Wylie, Alexander
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Wyndham-Quin, Major W. H.
Young, Samuel

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Allen, Chas. P. (*Glouc. Stroud*
Asher, Alexander
Atherley-Jones, L.
Barlow, John Emmott
Beaumont, Wentworth C. B.
Black, Alexander William
Broadhurst, Henry
Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
Burt, Thomas
Buxton, Sydney Charles
Caldwell, James
Cameron, Robert
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Causton, Richard Knight
Cawley, Frederick
Channing, Francis Allston
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Crooks, William
Davies, Alfred (*Carmarthen*)
Davies, M. Vaughan (*Cardigan*
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Douglas, Charles M. (*Lanark*)
Duncan, J. Hastings
Dunn, Sir William
Edwards, Frank
Elibank, Master of
Ellis, John Edward
Evans, Sir Francis H (*Maidstone*
Evans, Samuel T. (*Glamorgan*
Farquharson, Dr. Robert
Fenwick, Charles
Ferguson, R. C. Munro (*Leith*
Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmond
Foster, Sir Michl. (*Lond. Univ*
Foster, Sir Walter (*Derby Co.*
Fuller, J. M. F.
Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herbert J.
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Harwood, George
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Chas. Seale-
Hayter, Rt Hon Sir Arthur D.
Hemphill, Rt. Hon. Chas. H.
Hobhouse, C. E. H. (*Brist'l, E*

Holland, Sir William Henry
Hope, John Deans (*Fife, West*
Horniman, Frederick John
Humphreys-Owen, Arthur C.
Hutchinson, Dr. CharlesFredk.
Hutton, Alfred E. (*Morley*)
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jones, David B. (*Swansea*)
Jones, William (*Carnarvonsh.*
Kitson, Sir James
Langley, Batty
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (*Cornwall*
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leng, Sir John
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, David
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
M'Arthur, William (*Cornwall*
M'Laren, Sir Charles Benj.
Mansfield, Horace Rendall
Mappin, Sir Fredk. Thorpe
Markham, Arthur Basil
Mellor, Rt. Hn. JohnWilliam
Morgan, J. Lloyd (*Carmarthen*
Newnes, Sir George
Palmer, SirCharlesM.(*Durham*
Partington, Oswald
Paulton, James Mellor
Pirie, Duncan V.
Price, Robert John
Rea, Russell
Rickett, J. Compton
Roberts, John H. (*Denbighs*)
Roe, Sir Thomas
Russell, T. W.
Samuel, Herbert L. (*Cleveland*
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Charles Edw. (*Stafford*)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair, John (*Forfarshire*)
Soares, Ernest J.
Spencer, RtHn. C. R(*Northants*
Stevenson, Francis S.
Taylor, Theo. C. (*Radcliffe*)
Tennant, Harold John
Thomas, Sir A. (*Glamorgan, E.*
Thomas, David Alfred(*Merthyr*
Tomkinson, James
Toulmin, George
Wallace, Robert
Wason, Eugene (*Clackmannan*
Weir, James Galloway
Whiteley, George (*York, W.R.*
Whitley, J. H. (*Halifax*)
Williams, O. (*Merioneth*)
Wilson, F.W. (*Norfolk, Mid*)
Wilson, John (*Durham, Mid.*)
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
Mr. Lough and Mr. Trevelyan.

*SIR WILLIAM ANSON said Sub-section (2) as it stood provided that in a case where a Borough Council did not concur with the local education authority in a proposed compulsory acquisition of a school site—

"The Board of Education shall be empowered, as a condition of its approval of the Provisional Order, to require, if it thinks fit, the substitution in the Order of any other site proposed by the council of the metropolitan borough for that inserted by the local education authority."

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 1, line 23, after the word 'shall,' to leave out to end of clause, and insert the words 'not make the order authorising the purchase unless they are satisfied that the concurrence of the council of the borough should be dispensed with.'"—(*Sir William Anson.*)

MR. BRYCE said this was a substantial improvement of the sub-section.

Amendment agreed to.

MR. BRYCE moved an Amendment to provide that a site required for the enlargement of a public elementary school should not be deemed a new site within the meaning of Sub-section (2). He hoped the Government would see that this Amendment was needed. He did not say that it was absolutely needed in point of law, but he thought it was better that the Amendment should be added in order to make the matter perfectly plain. There was no reason why a site for the enlargement of a school should come within the sub-section.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 1, line 26, at end, to add the words 'Provided that the site required for the enlargement of a public elementary school shall not be deemed to be a site required for a new public elementary school within the meaning of this sub-section and of Section eight of the principal Act.'"—(*Mr. Bryce.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted in the Bill."

*SIR WILLIAM ANSON said the enlargement of a school might require a very substantial addition to the existing site, and if such an enlargement could not be dealt with as a matter of consultation, sometimes the character of a neighbourhood might be almost changed, and some of the objects of the sub-section would thereby be frustrated. He thought there were cases in which the enlargement would be so substantial that the Borough Council ought to be consulted.

DR. MACNAMARA said they were now dealing with a very important matter. The hon. Baronet's fears that they might change a small school into a very large one were absolutely groundless, because the rules of the Education Department prevented the building of a school for more than 1,200 scholars. The existing law provided for all sorts of inquiries when it was proposed to enlarge a school, and these inquiries took a long time, the effect being that all interests were adequately safeguarded. If an additional piece of land had to be bought compulsorily, the authority had to come to Parliament for a Provisional Order which had to stand the fire of criticism. He was convinced that if the Parliamentary Secretary looked into the matter he would see that he already had in the regulations and powers of the Department the most complete, and, he might say, tedious safeguards. It would be highly detrimental if a mere enlargement would have to run through all the gamut of Clauses 7 and 8 of last year's Act, and Sub-section (2) of Clause 2 of this Bill. The Amendment was absolutely necessary for the reasonable carrying out of the provisions of the Act of last year.

MR. LOUGH said the hon. Baronet could not have thought out this matter when he gave such a blank refusal to the Amendment. There would be continual conflicts if this Amendment were not accepted. The Amendment only spoke of the enlargement of existing schools. An existing school was not a new public elementary school. If the Bill was left without this Amendment it would not be clear that the local education authority could proceed without going to the Borough Councils.

***SIR WILLIAM ANSON** said he would accept the Amendment in the following shape—

> "In Clause 2, page 1, line 26, to insert 'Provided that, except in the case of compulsory acquisition, the site required for the enlargement of a public elementary school shall not be deemed to be a site required for a new public elementary school within the meaning of this sub-section.'"

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON said he would rather have had the Amendment he had proposed on behalf of his hon. friend; but they had better take what they could get.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

> "In page 1, line 26, at end, to insert the words "Provided that, except in the case of compulsory acquisition, the site required for the enlargement of a public elementary school shall not be deemed a site required for a new public elementary school within the meaning of this sub-section.'"—(*Sir William Anson.*)

Amendment agreed to.

MR. BRYCE said he thought that the words "and of Section 8 of the principal Act," should be added to the Amendment. It was intended to have an open field as between provided and non-provided schools. But this particular section referred only to provided schools, which made all the difference in the world. These words were necessary, and he begged to move their insertion.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

> "After the words last inserted to insert the words 'and of Section 8 of the principal Act.'"—(*Mr. Bryce.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted in the Bill."

***SIR WILLIAM ANSON** said he could not help thinking that these words should not be inserted here, for though they seemingly referred to an enlargement of a school with reference to consulting Borough Councils under certain conditions, they really repeated in the case of London a provision of the principal Act.

DR. MACNAMARA said that if these words were not put in, the matter would be left entirely to the Board of Education. His experience of the Board of Education since 1895, was that i had been under considerable denominational influence, though he did not say it was under the hon. Baronet. All sorts of delays had been caused by the pressure of the managers and friends of denominational schools, who thought the enlargement of a school, or the provision of a new school would do injury to their schools. He certainly thought the addition of the words was necessary in order to prevent long delays, and 300 or 400 children being kept waiting for places.

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 111; Noes, 212. (Division List No. 167.)

AYES.

Allen, Chas. P. (*Glos., Stroud*)
Asher, Alexander
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Barlow, John Emmott
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Beaumont, Wentworth C. B.

Black, Alexander William
Broadhurst, Henry
Brown, George M. (*Edinburgh*)
Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
Burns, John
Burt, Thomas
Buxton, Sydney Charles
Caldwell, James
Cameron, Robert
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Causton, Richard Knight
Cawley, Frederick
Channing, Francis Allston
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Crooks, William
Davies, Alfred (*Carmarthen*)
Davies, M. Vaughan-(*Cardigan*
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Douglas, Charles M. (*Lanark*)
Dunn, Sir William
Edwards, Frank
Elibank, Master of
Evans, Samuel T. (*Glamorgan*)
Farquharson, Dr. Robert
Fenwick, Charles
Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmund
Foster, Sir Michael (*Lond. Univ.*
Foster, Sir Walter (*Derby Co.*)
Fuller, J. M. F.
Furness, Sir Christopher
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Grey, Rt. Hn. Sir E. (*Berwick*
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Hardie, J. Keir (*Merthyr Tyd*
Harwood, George
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Charles Seale-
Hayter, Rt. Hon. Sir Arthur D.
Hemphill, Rt. Hon. Charles H.
Hobhouse, C. E. H. (*Bristol, E.*)
Holland, Sir William Henry
Hope, John Deans (*Fife, West*)
Horniman, Frederick John
Hutchinson, Dr. Charles Fredk.
Hutton, Alfred E. (*Morley*)
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jones, David Brynmor (*Sw'nsea*
Jones, William (*Carnarvonshire*
Langley, Batty
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (*Cornwall*)
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leigh, Sir Joseph
Leng, Sir John
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, David
Lough, Thomas
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
M'Kenna, Reginald
M'Laren, Sir Charles Benjamin
Mansfield, Horace Rendall
Mappin, Sir Fredk. Thorpe
Markham, Arthur Basil
Mellor, Rt. Hn. John William
Morgan, J. Lloyd (*Carmarthen*)
Moulton, John Fletcher
Newnes, Sir George
Palmer, Sir Charles M. (*Durham*
Partington, Oswald
Paulton, James Mellor
Pirie, Duncan V.
Price, Robert John
Rea, Russell
Rickett, J. Compton
Roberts, John H. (*Denbighs.*)
Roe, Sir Thomas
Russell, T. W.
Samuel, Herbert L. (*Cleveland*
Schwann, Charles E.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Charles E. (*Stafford*)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair, John (*Forfarshire*)
Soares, Ernest J.
Spencer, Rt Hn C. R. (*Northants*
Stevenson, Francis S.
Strachey, Sir Edward
Taylor, Theodore C. (*Radcliffe*)
Tennant, Harold John
Thomas, A. (*Carmarthen, E.*)
Thomas, Sir A. (*Glamorgan, E.*)
Thomas, David Alfred (*Merthyr*
Tomkinson, James
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Wason, Eugene (*Clackmannan*)
Wason, John Cathcart (*Orkney*
Weir, James Galloway
Whitley, J. H. (*Halifax*)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Williams, Osmond (*Merioneth*)
Wilson, Chas. H. (*Hull, W.*)
Wilson, F. W. (*Norfolk, Mid*)
Wilson, John (*Durham, Mid.*)
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
Mr. Herbert Gladstone and
Mr. William M'Arthur.

NOES.

Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Aird, Sir John
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Aubrey-Fletcher, Rt. Hn. Sir H.
Bagot, Capt. Josceline FitzRoy
Bailey, James (*Walworth*)
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Baird, John George Alexander
Balcarres, Lord
Baldwin, Alfred
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (*Manch'r*
Balfour, Rt. Hn. G. W. (*Leeds*
Balfour, Kenneth R. (*Christch.*
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Bathurst, Hon. Allen Benj.
Beckett, Ernest William
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bill, Charles
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bowles, Lt.-Col. H. F. (*Middlesex*
Brassey, Albert
Brown, Sir Alex. H. (*Shropsh.*)
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Campbell, Rt. Hn. J. A. (*Glasg.*
Campbell, J. H. M. (*Dublin Univ*
Campbell, John (*Armagh, S.*)
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Cavendish, V. C. W. (*Derbyshire*
Cayzer, Sir Charles William
Cecil, Evelyn (*Aston Manor*)
Cecil, Lord, Hugh (*Greenwich*)
Chamberlain, Rt Hon J (*Birm*
Chamberlain, Rt. Hn. J A (*Worc.*
Chaplin, Right Hon. Henry
Chapman, Edward
Churchill, Winston, Spencer
Clive, Captain Percy A.
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Coddington, Sir William
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Collings, Right Hon. Jesse
Colston, Chas. Edw. H. Athole
Cook, Sir Frederick Lucas
Cox, Irwin Edwd Bainbridge
Cross, Herb. Shepherd (*Bolton*)
Crossley, Rt. Hon. Sir Savile
Denny, Colonel
Dewar, Sir T. R. (*Tr. Haml'ts*
Dimsdale, Rt. Hn. Sir Joseph C.
Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
Doogan, P. C.
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers
Doxford, Sir Wm. Theodore
Duke, Henry Edward
Egerton, Hon. A. de Tatton
Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas
Faber, George Denison (*York*)
Fardell, Sir T. George
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Ed.
Fergusson, Rt. Hn. Sir J. (*Man'r*)
Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Firbank, Sir Joseph Thomas
Fisher, William Hayes
Fitzroy, Hon. Edw. Algernon
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Flower, Ernest
Forster, Henry William
Foster, Philip S. (*Warwick, S. W*
Galloway, William Johnston
Gardner, Ernest
Gibbs, Hn. A. G. H. (*City of Lond*
Gibbs, Hn. Vicary (*St. Albans*
Godson, Sir Augustus Fredk.
Gordon, Hn. J. E. (*Elgin & Nairn*
Gore, Hn. S. F. Ormsby- (*Linc*
Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
Goschen, Hon. George Joachim
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Graham, Henry Robert
Greene, Sir E. W. (*Bury St. Ed.*
Grenfell, William Henry
Groves, James Grimble
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Gunter, Sir Robert
Guthrie, Walter Murray
Hardy, Laurence (*Kent, Ashfd*
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Harris, Frederick Leverton
Haslam, Sir Alfred S.
Hatch, Ernest Frederick Geo.
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Heath, James (*Staffords, N. W.*
Helder, Augustus
Hogg, Lindsay
Hoult, Joseph
Howard, Jno (*Kent, Faver'hm*
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Jessel, Capt. Herbert Merton
Johnstone, Heywood
Kenyon-Slaney, Col. W. (*Salop.*
Kerr, John

Knowles, Lees
Lambton, Hon. Fredk. Wm.
Law, Andrew Bonar (*Glasgow*)
Lawrence, Sir Joseph (*Monm'th*
Lawrence, Wm. F. (*Liverpool*)
Lawson, John Grant (*York, N.R*
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leveson-Gower Frederick N.S
Llewellyn, Evan Henry
Lockwood, Lieut-Col. A. R.
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Long, Col. Charles W. (*Evesham*
Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (*Bristol, S.*
Lowe, Francis William
Lowther, C. (*Cumb. Eskdale*)
Lowther, Rt. Hon. Jas. (*Kent*)
Lucas, Col. Francis (*Lowestoft*
Lucas, Reginald J. (*Portsmouth*
Lyttelton, Hon. Alfred
Macdona, John Cumming
Maconochie, A. W.
M'Iver, Sir Lewis (*Edinburgh W*
M'Killop, James (*Stirlingshire*)
Malcolm, Ian
Maxwell, Rt Hn Sir H. E (*Wig'n.*
Melville, Beresford Valentine
Meysey-Thompson, Sir H. M.
Milvain, Thomas
Mitchell, William (*Burnley*)
Montagu, G. (*Huntingdon*)
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
Morgan, David J (*Walthamstow*
Morgan, Hn. F. (*Monm'thsh.*)
Morton, Arthur H. Aylmer
Mount, William Arthur
Murray, Rt Hn A. Graham (*Bute*
Murray, Col. Wyndham (*Bath*)
Myers, William Henry
Nicholson, William Graham
Nolan, Col. John P. (*Galway, N.*
Orr-Ewing, Charles Lindsay
Palmer, Walter (*Salisbury*)
Peel, Hn. Wm Robert Wellesley
Pemberton, John S. G.
Percy, Earl
Pierpoint, Robert
Pilkington, Colonel Richard
Plummer, Walter R.
Pretyman, Ernest George
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Pym, C. Guy
Randles, John S.
Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
Ratcliff, R. F.
Rattigan, Sir William Henry
Reid, James (*Greenock*)
Remnant, Jas. Farquharson
Renshaw, Sir Charles Bine
Renwick, George
Ritchie, Rt. Hn. Chas. Thomson
Roberts, Samuel (*Sheffield*)
Robertson, Herbert (*Hackney*)
Round, Rt. Hon. James
Rutherford, John (*Lancashire*)
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford
Sadler, Col. Samuel Alexander
Samuel, Harry S. (*Limehouse*)
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Scott, Sir S. (*Marylebone, W.*)
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Shaw-Stewart, M. H. (*Renfrew*
Simeon, Sir Barrington
Sinclair, Louis (*Romford*)
Smith, Abel H. (*Hertford, E.*)
Smith, H. C. (*North'mb Tyneside*
Smith, James Parker (*Lanarks.*
Smith, Hn. W. F. D. (*Strand*)
Stanley, Lord (*Lancs.*)
Stroyan, John
Talbot, Lord E. (*Chichester*)
Talbot, Rt. Hn. J. G. (*Oxf d Univ*
Thornton, Percy M.
Tomlinson, Sir Wm. Edw. M.
Tritton, Charles Ernest
Valentia, Viscount
Vincent, Sir Edgar (*Exeter*)
Walrond, Rt. Hn. Sir William H
Wanklyn, James Leslie
Warde, Colonel C. E.
Webb, Colonel William George
Welby, Lt.-Col A. C E. (*Taunton*
Welby, Sir Chas. G. E. (*Notts*)
Whiteley, H. (*Ashton und. Lyne*
Whitmore, Charles Algernon
Willoughby de Eresby, Lord
Willox, Sir John Archibald
Wilson, A. Stanley (*York, E.R.*
Wilson, John (*Falkirk*)
Wilson, John (*Glasgow*)
Wilson-Todd, W. H. (*Yorks.*)
Wodehouse, Rt. Hn. E. R. (*Bath*)
Worsley-Taylor, Henry Wilson
Wylie, Alexander
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Wyndham-Quin, Major W. H.
Young, Samuel

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Mr. Anstruther.

*SIR WILLIAM ANSON said he moved this Amendment in pursuance of an undertaking he had given at an earlier stage.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 1, line 26, at end, to add the words '(3) Schools provided by the local education authority for blind, deaf, epileptic, and defective children, and any other schools which, in the opinion of the Board of Education, are not of a local character, shall not be treated for the purposes of this section as public elementary schools.'"—(*Sir William Anson.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted in the Bill."

DR. MACNAMARA admitted the necessity of moving this now, but he suggested it would perhaps be as well to insert after the word "opinion" "of the local education authority and."

Question put, and agreed to.

CAPTAIN JESSEL said he attached considerable importance to the subsection of the London Government Act of 1899 having relation to the transference of powers, and therefore moved the Amendment standing in his name. The history of this clause was that it was moved late in the evening by the hon. Member for West Islington. It was not in the original Bill. The hon. Member in moving the clause pointed out that at the time the London Government Act was passed it was never intended to give the administration of education to the London County Council and the Borough Councils. He thought it would be a pity to stereotype for all time the system laid down by this Act. If the clause was struck out it would be quite simple by an agreement of the majority of the Borough Councils and the London County Council, with the consent of the Local Government Board, to make any change they desired, and he did not see what objection there could be to an arrangement of that kind. He begged to move.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 1, line 27, to leave out Clause 3."—(*Captain Jessel.*)

Question proposed, "That the words of Clause 3, to the word 'proceedings' in line 28, stand part of the Bill."

MR. LOUGH expressed his amazement that such a suggestion should be made by the hon. Member. Clause 3 was a very small clause, but it was one which he regarded with some affection because it was the only one which he succeeded in persuading the Government to accept. When he thought of the arduous struggle he made in support of the clause he thought the hon. Member ought not to grudge him the one crumb he had extracted from the Government. The hon. Member evidently thought because the clause was short it was of little use, but he might point out that when the London Government Act was passed there was no thought of entrusting education to municipal bodies. Under the clause in that Act great changes might be made between the Borough Council and the London County Council without the Board of Education being consulted at all, and without any one knowing anything about them. He thought this clause was absolutely necessary, and he hoped the Government would stick to the Bill as it was and not allow the clause to be struck out.

MR. WHITMORE admitted that the fact that the clause had reference to the Local Government Board and not to the Board of Education might present some little difficulty, but inasmuch as after the sanction of the Local Government Board was obtained a Provisional Order was necessary it would be convenient to omit this clause.

MR. WALTER LONG said it was the invariable practice when one Department of the Government was asked to do something closely affecting another Department for that Department to ask for the views of the Department affected and follow out those views and adopt the suggestions made. The Local Government Board in this case would be a purely administrative Department and would adopt the views and carry out the suggestions of the Board of Education. They adopted the Amendment in the Committee stage of the Bill because they were then in a fatigued condition. The hon. Member pressed it on the Government—it was his one child, his ewe lamb, and it was accepted. But he thought on the whole the best course now would be to leave it out of the Bill.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON thought the House was not being fairly treated in this matter. The Amendment was accepted without protest as a safeguard against possible contingencies, and, the Government having accepted it, it would be rather ungracious of them now to throw it over.

MR. HERBERT ROBERTSON (Hackney, S.) said although he should strongly object to any large powers being thrust upon the Borough Councils by this clause he could not congratulate the hon. Member on his ewe lamb. The hon. Member objected to powers being transferred to the Borough Councils, but he did not object to powers being transferred to the Corporation of London which was done by a subsequent clause of the Act of 1899. He could conceive that it might be desirable to make changes with regard to seconda y and technical education, and he therefore asked the House to allow the law to stand as it was and not make a special exception in this case.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean) did not think the Government were acting fairly in leaving this matter to be decided by the House, which meant rejection, without giving notice of its intention to do so. He gathered that there had been some discussion as to an Amendment which the Government proposed to move in the clause, and therefore their present action was discourteous to the author of the clause.

* SIR WILLIAM ANSON said he should be sorry to leave this point unanswered. What really happened was that a month ago a list of necessary Amendments to the Bill was brought before him; among them was one to the clause of the hon. Member. He called the attention of the hon. Member to the fact that the Amendment was necessary, and it never occurred to him that by doing so he was doing anything unfair one way or the other or pledging himself to retain the clause. He was sorry that his action had led to any misapprehension. He had no intention of misleading the hon. Member

or the House, and he still said if this clause remained the Amendment was necessary.

MR. BRYCE thought in a case of this kind the Government ought to stand by the Bill. It was not treating the House quite fairly for the Government, after having accepted this clause, to fall down and surrender to the Member who moved the Amendment. The Amendment was accepted as a compromise.

MR. WALTER LONG: No.

MR. BRYCE said that as the debate was proceeding the Government thought they could give satisfaction by accepting the Amendment, so that it might fairly be described as a compromise. Now, without the lightest notice, that compromise was being abandoned. He really thought that was not the way in which these things should be done. If the Government thought the balance of argument was in favour of the clause being dropped, they ought themselves to have proposed its omission. If powers of such importance were to be transferred to the Borough Councils, it ought to be done by statute, and go through all the forms which such proceedure involved.

MR. SAMUEL EVANS (Glamorganshire Mid) thought the Government ought to adhere to the decision at which they arrived, perhaps hurriedly, during the debates in Committee. Possibly his hon. friend's Amendment did not go far enough, but that could easily be remedied. It was true there were safeguards against the powers of devolution being exercised, but the objection was to the possibility of the Local Government Board or the Board of Education, or both, allowing the devolution of such important powers as was possible under the section. It ought to be made clear that Parliament did not intend that any such application should be successfully made by the County and Borough Councils, and that no Provisional Order would be obtainable.

DR. MACNAMARA said the ultimate effect might be very serious financially. The present County Council were not likely to devolve much, but, without any great stretch of imagination, he could conceive a County Council with a majority of such a character that it would be the easiest thing in the world to pass a resolution devolving powers to such an extent as to confer practical autonomy for educational purposes upon each Borough Council. It would also be possible to devolve upon each Borough Council the right to raise a differential rate for elementary education, and it would be to the interest of a majority of the Borough Councils to petition for such a devolution of powers, because they would get off with a smaller rate. What would be the result ? With its rateable value and the number of children to be provided for, Westminster could manage with a ¾d. rate (the rate for the whole of London was 14d.), whereas in Bethnal Green it would be 30½d., in Poplar, 34½d., in Camberwell, 37d., and in Battersea, 29d. Apart from educational administration, such a result would be financially disastrous to the poorer parts of the Metropolis. In the interests of a unified rate and of wise administration the provision ought to remain in the Bill.

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 120; Noes, 214. (Division List, No. 168.)

AYES.

Allen, Chas. P. (*Glos., Stroud*)
Asher, Alexander
Asquith, Rt. Hon. Herbt. Hy.
Atherley-Jones, L.
Barlow, John Emmott
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Black, Alexander William
Bolton, Thomas Dolling
Broadhurst, Henry
Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Burns, John
Burt, Thomas
Buxton, Sydney Charles
Caldwell, James
Cameron, Robert
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Causton, Richard Knight
Cawley, Frederick
Channing, Francis Allston
Cox, Irwin Edward Bainbridge
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Crooks, William
Davies, Alfred (*Carmarthen*)
Davies, M. Vaughan (*Cardigan*
Dewar, John A. (*Inverness-sh.*)
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Douglas, Charles M. (*Lanark*)
Dunn, Sir William
Edwards, Frank
Elibank, Master of
Emmott, Alfred

Evans, Samuel T. (*Glamorgan*
Farquharson, Dr. Robert
Fenwick, Charles
Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmund
Foster, Sir Michl. (*Lond. Univ*
Foster, Sir Walter (*Derby Co.*
Fuller, J. M. F.
Furness, Sir Christopher
Gladstone, Rt. Hn Herbert John
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Grey, Rt. Hn. Sir E. (*Berwick*
Griffith, Ellis J.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Hardie, J. Keir (*Merthyr Tyd*
Harmsworth, R. Leicester
Harwood, George
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Charles Seale-
Hayter, Rt. Hn. Sir Arthur D.
Hobhouse, C. E. H. (*Bristol, E.*
Holland, Sir William Henry
Hope, John Deans (*Fife, West*)
Howard, J. (*Midd., Tottenham*)
Hutchinson, Dr. Charles Fredk.
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jones, David Brynmor (*Swansea*
Jones, William (*Carnarvonsh.*)
Labouchere, Henry
Langley, Batty
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (*Cornwall*)
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leigh, Sir Joseph
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, David
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
M'Arthur, William (*Cornwall*)
M'Kenna, Reginald
M'Laren, Sir Charles Benj.
Mansfield, Horace Rendall
Mappin, Sir Fredk. Thorpe
Markham, Arthur Basil
Mellor, Rt. Hn. John William
Morgan, J. Lloyd (*Carmarthen*
Moss, Samuel
Moulton, John Fletcher
Newnes, Sir George
Palmer, Sir Charles M (*Durham*
Partington, Oswald
Paulton, James Mellor
Philipps, John Wynford
Pirie, Duncan V.
Price, Robert John
Rea, Russell
Rickett, J. Compton
Roberts, John H. (*Denbighs.*)
Roe, Sir Thomas
Runciman, Walter
Samuel, Herbert L. (*Cleveland*
Schwann, Charles E.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Charles E. (*Stafford*)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair, John (*Forfarshire*)
Smith, H C (*North'mb. Tyneside*
Soares, Ernest J.
Spencer, Rt. Hn C. R (*Northants*
Stevenson, Francis S.
Taylor, Theodore C. (*Radcliffe*)
Thomas, A. (*Carmarthen, E.*)
Thomas, Sir A. (*Glamorgan, E.*
Thomas, David Alfred (*Merthyr*
Tomkinson, James
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Tritton, Charles Ernest
Wason, Eugene (*Clackmannan*
Wason, John Cathcart (*Orkney*
Weir, James Galloway
Whiteley, George (*York, W. R.*
Whitley, J. H. (*Halifax*)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Williams, O. (*Merioneth*)
Wilson, Chas. H. (*Hull, W.*)
Wilson, F. W. (*Norfolk, Mid*)
Wilson, John (*Durham, Mid.*)
Wilson, John (*Falkirk*)
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
Mr. Lough and Mr. Alfred Hutton.

NOES.

Abraham, W. (*Cork, N.E.*)
Acland-Hood, Capt. Sir A. F.
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Aird, Sir John
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Anstruther, H. T.
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Aubrey-Fletcher, Rt. Hn. Sir H.
Bagot, Capt. Josceline FitzRoy
Bailey, James (*Walworth*)
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Baird, John George Alexander
Balcarres, Lord
Baldwin, Alfred
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J. (*Manch'r*
Balfour, Rt Hn. Gerald W (*Leeds*
Balfour, Kenneth R. (*Christch.*
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Bathurst, Hon. Allen Benjamin
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.
Bill, Charles
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bowles, Lt-Col. H. F (*Middlesex*
Brassey, Albert
Brown, Sir Alx. H. (*Shropsh.*)
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Campbell, Rt. Hn. J. A (*Glasgow*
Campbell, J. H. M. (*Dublin Univ*
Campbell, John (*Armagh, S.*)
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Cavendish, V. C. W. (*Derbyshire*
Cayzer, Sir Charles William
Cecil, Evelyn (*Aston Manor*)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (*Greenwich*)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hn. J. (*Birm.*
Chamberlain, Rt. Hn J. A. (*Worc*
Chamberlayne, T. (*Southamptn*
Chaplin, Right Hon. Henry
Chapman, Edward
Charrington, Spencer
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Clive, Captain Percy A.
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Coddington, Sir William
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colston, Chas. Edw. H. Athole
Cripps, Charles Alfred
Cross, Herb. Shepherd (*Bolton*
Crossley, Rt. Hon. Sir Savile
Dalkeith, Earl of
Denny, Colonel
Dewar, Sir T. R. (*Tower Hamlets*
Dimsdale, Rt. Hn. Sir Joseph C.
Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
Doughty, George
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Doxford, Sir Wm. Theodore
Duke, Henry Edward
Dyke, Rt. Hn. Sir William Hart
Egerton, Hon. A. de Tatton
Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas
Faber, George Denison (*York*)
Fardell, Sir T. George
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Ed.
Fergusson, Rt. Hn. Sir J (*Manc'r*
Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Firbank, Sir Joseph Thomas
Fisher, William Hayes
Fitzroy, Hon. Edw. Algernon
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Flower, Ernest
Forster, Henry William
Foster, Philip S. (*Warwick, S. W.*
Galloway, William Johnson
Gardner, Ernest
Gibbs, Hn A. G. H (*City of Lond*
Gibbs, Hn. Vicary (*St. Albans*
Gilhooly, James
Godson, Sir Augustus Frederick
Gordon, Hn. J. E (*Elgin & Nairn*
Gore, Hn. G R C. Ormsby-(*Salop*
Gore, Hon. S. F. Ormsby-(*Linc.*
Goschen, Hon. George Joachim
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Graham, Henry Robert
Greene, Sir E W (*B'ry S Edm'nds*
Grenfell, William Henry
Groves, James Grimble
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Gunter, Sir Robert
Guthrie, Walter Murray
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Hall, Edward Marshall
Hardy, Laurence (*Kent, Ashfd*
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Harris, Frederick Leverton
Haslam, Sir Alfred S.
Hatch, Ernest Frederick Geo.
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Heath, James (*Staffords, N. W.*
Helder, Augustus
Henderson, Sir Alexander
Hickman, Sir Alfred
Hogg, Lindsay
Houldsworth, Sir Wm. Henry
Howard, Jno (*Kent, Faver hm*
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Johnstone, Heywood
Kenyon-Slaney, Col. W. (*Salop*
Kerr, John
Knowles, Lees
Lambton, Hon. Frederick Wm.
Law, Andrew Bonar (*Glasgow*
Lawrence, Wm. F. (*Liverpool*
Lawson, John Grant (*Yorks N.R*

Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leveson-Gower, Frederick N.S
Llewellyn, Evan Henry
Lockwood, Lieut-Col. A. R.
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Long, Col. Charles W. (*Evesham*
Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (*Bristol, S*
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lowe, Francis William
Lowther, C. (*Cumb. Eskdale*)
Lowther, Rt. Hon. James (*Kent*
Lucas, Col. Francis (*Lowestoft*
Lucas, Reginald J. (*Portsmouth*
Lyttelton, Hon. Alfred
Macdona, John Cumming
M'Arthur, Charles (*Liverpool*
M'Iver, Sir Lewis (*Edinburgh W*
M'Killop, James (*Stirlingshire*
Maxwell, Rt Hn Sir H E (*Wigt'n*
Melville, Beresford Valentine
Meysey-Thompson, Sir H. M.
Milvain, Thomas
Mitchell, William (*Burnley*)
Montagu, G. (*Huntingdon*)
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
Morgan, David J (*Walthamstow*
Morgan, Hn. Fred. (*Monm'thsh.*
Morton, Arthur H. Aylmer
Mount, William Arthur
Murray, Rt Hn A. Graham (*Bute*
Murray, Col. Wyndham (*Bath*
Myers, William Henry
Nicholson, William Graham
Nolan, Col. John P. (*Galway, N.*
Orr-Ewing, Charles Lindsay
Palmer, Walter (*Salisbury*)
Peel, Hn Wm. Robert Wellesley
Pemberton, John S. G.
Percy, Earl
Pilkington, Colonel Richard
Plummer, Walter R.
Pretyman, Ernest George
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Pym, C. Guy
Randles, John S.
Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
Ratcliff, R. F.
Rattigan, Sir William Henry
Reid, James (*Greenock*)
Remnant, James Farquharson
Renshaw, Sir Charles Bine
Renwick, George
Ridley, S. Forde (*Bethnal Green*
Ritchie, Rt. Hn. C. Thomson
Roberts, Samuel (*Sheffield*)
Robertson, Herbert (*Hackney*)
Rolleston, Sir John F. L.
Round, Rt. Hon. James
Rutherford, John (*Lancashire*
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford-
Sadler, Col. Samuel Alexander
Samuel, Harry S. (*Limehouse*)
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Scott, Sir S. (*Marylebone, W.*)
Simeon, Sir Barrington
Sinclair, Louis (*Romford*)
Smith, James Parker (*Lanarks.*
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (*Strand*
Stanley, Lord (*Lancs.*)
Stroyan, John
Talbot, Rt, Hn J. G. (*Oxf'd Univ*
Thornton, Percy M.
Tomlinson, Sir Wm. Edw. M.
Valentia, Viscount
Walrond, Rt. Hn. Sir Wm. H.
Wanklyn, James Leslie
Warde, Colonel C. E.
Webb, Colonel William George
Welby, Lt-Col A. C. E (*Taunton*
Welby, Sir Charles G. E. (*Notts.*
Whiteley, H. (*Ashton und. Lyne*
Whitmore, Charles Algernon
Willoughby de Eresby, Lord
Willox, Sir John Archibald
Wilson, John (*Glasgow*)
Wilson-Todd, Wm. H. (*Yorks.*
Wodehouse, Rt. Hn. E. R. (*Bath*
Worsley-Taylor, Henry Wilson
Wylie, Alexander
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Young, Samuel

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Captain Jessel and Mr. Bull.

MR. MANSFIELD (Lincolnshire, Spalding) moved an Amendment with the object of postponing the date for the Act coming into operation from 1st May, 1904, as proposed, to 1st May, 1907. By delaying the commencement of the Act, the people of London would be given an opportunity of declaring whether they wanted it or not. This Amendment raised the question of the mandate of the Government for the passing of the Act. It was notorious that at last election not a single constituency was asked whether they desired the School Boards to be extinguished. Not a single elector suspected, when he voted for a Conservative candidate that he was voting for the abolition of the School Boards. The only mandate the Government professed to have was the mandate of necessity. The Prime Minister said that the Act was brought in because the necessities of the case demanded that education should be dealt with. If necessity was the mandate surely they ought to have started with the War Office instead of education. Seeing that the Government had absolutely no mandate from the people of London in regard to the Act he proposed that the date for its coming into operation should be so extended that they would have an opportunity of saying, in other parts than Hyde Park and the Albert Hall, whether they wanted the measure or not. He believed that practically nobody in London wanted it. The School Board of London, which had been doing the work admirably for years, did not want to be extinguished, and no serious objection had been made to the manner in which they had carried out their duties.

*MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Member can hardly make a Second Reading speech upon a Motion to postpone the date upon which the Bill is to come into operation.

MR. MANSFIELD said it was difficult to know exactly where the Government had taken their instructions from. They were constantly told that the people had never asked for the Bill. The object of his Amendment was to give the people of London an opportunity of considering the matter which affected not only their children but the future of London. He begged to move.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 2, line 10, to leave out the word 'four' and insert the word 'seven.'"—(*Mr. Mansfield.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'four' stand part of the Bill."

*SIR WILLIAM ANSON said he would not follow the hon. Member into the general discussion as to whether the Bill was wanted or not, because he was not disposed to make a speech on the general merits of the measure such as he had had to make before and might have to make on the Third Reading. He would rather reply to any general reflections on the Bill when it came to be read a third time. This was an Amendment for the postponement of the date of the commencement of the Bill for three years beyond the date contemplated. The hon. Member had not assigned any reason for that change. His whole speech was directed to the undesirability of bringing in the Bill at all. He could not accept the Amendment.

DR. MACNAMARA said he would vote for the Amendment readily, but he really thought that it did not matter very much, because before the first of April, 1904, a certain event would have happened. In the first week of March there would be a County Council election. The people of London would settle all this, and he had not a shadow of a doubt that they would return to Spring Gardens an overwhelming majority on three issues. The first was—We will not administer this Act because we have too much to do, and you are putting on us work which will break the whole machinery down.

*MR. SPEAKER: I think this is matter for the Third Reading. If this line of argument were allowed upon this Amendment, the whole merits of the Bill might be discussed.

DR. MACNAMARA said he did not wish to discuss the whole merits of the Bill. He thought the date of commencement ought to be postponed until the voice of the people could be heard. He had not a shadow of a doubt that there would be a more effective postponement than the change from 1904 to 1907, because before it came into operation it would have to be drastically altered.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE (Carnarvon Boroughs) agreed that they ought to postpone the commencement of the Act. A similar Motion was made with regard to last year's Act and he supported it. It was true that the County Councils were then with a majority of Conservatives who were in sympathy with the Government The line they took was that as the County Councils were to frame schemes and to have the whole direction of the general policy of their particular areas the operation of the Act ought to be postponed so that the County Councils might consider the general lines on which it ought to be administered. Now they were dealing with a County Council which was Progressive and in general sympathy with Liberal views. They were not taking this course purely and simply because of the political complexion of the Councils. They said, as a general proposition, that Parliament was casting on the authority work which, when that authority was brought into existence, it had not the remotest idea that anything of the kind would be proposed. The County Councils were elected in England and Wales three years ago. They had not the faintest notion that before the end of their term of office functions of this kind would be cast upon them. He was sure the electors had no idea of it, and, therefore, they had no opportunity of selecting men qualified for this purpose. The functions to be cast by this Bill on the London County Council were greater in their financial magnitude than anything they had got at the present moment. The amount of money they had to distribute and the work they had to do under this Bill was of a higher quality. He had every regard for the work of the County Council, but he did not think it was so important as that which was to be cast upon it by the Bill in connection with the training of the young of London. They were not legislating entirely by this Bill. The County Council would begin to legislate by means of schemes. What were the schemes throughout the country? They were so many little Education Acts for each local authority, and anyone who looked at them would see the great diversity of educational ideals which existed. He thought the local electors ought to be consulted as to the general lines of policy and as to the kind of men who ought to be entrusted with the work. He was not sticking up for 1907, but he thought the Act should not be put into operation until the Parliamentary electors were consulted as well. It was perfectly obvious that they were legislating against the wish of the people. They had not been consulted upon it at all. He was certain that nobody in the House believed that this was an Act of Parliament which would be in operation inside or outside London three years hence. What he found taking place in Wales was what he was certain would take place throughout the whole country. Men on both sides were beginning to realise that this was not an Act of Parliament that would work, and they were coming together and practically framing an Act of Parliament of their own by general agreement. If the Government postponed this Act for a year or two he believed that a general agreement would be arrived at in London as to the lines on which educational administration ought to be carried on in future. It seemed to him that the Government were acting in a very head strong way. It was quite incomprehensible to him. They must see that they were legislating against the force of public opinion. What possible chance did they imagine education would get in the country? The whole country was rent by sectarian disputes. He said postpone the Bill for a year or two until they got something more in consonance with the general view of the people of the country.

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes 221; Noes 111. (Division List No. 169.)

AYES.

Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Aird, Sir John
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arnold-Foster, Hugh O.
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Aubrey-Fletcher, Rt. Hn. Sir H.
Bagot, Capt. Josceline FitzRoy
Bailey, James (*Walworth*)
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Baird, John George Alexander
Balcarres, Lord
Baldwin, Alfred
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (*Manch'r*
Balfour, Capt. C. B. (*Hornsey*)
Balfour, Rt. Hn. G. W. (*Leeds*
Balfour, Kenneth R. (*Christch.*
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Bathurst, Hon. Allen Benjamin
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.
Bill, Charles
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bousfield, William Robert
Brassey, Albert
Brown, Sir Alx. H. (*Shropsh.*)
Bull, William James
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Butcher, John George
Campbell, Rt. Hn. J. A (*Glasgow*
Campbell, J. H. M (*Dublin Univ.*
Campbell, John (*Armagh, S.*)
Carew, James Laurence
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Cavendish, V. C. W. (*Derbyshire*
Cayzer, Sir Charles William
Cecil, Evelyn (*Aston Manor*)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (*Greenwich*)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J. (*Birm.*
Chamberlain, Rt Hn. J. A (*Worc.*
Chamberlayne, T. (*Southmptn*
Chapman, Edward
Charrington, Spencer
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Clive, Captain Percy A.
Cochrane, Hon. Thomas H. A. E.
Coddington, Sir William
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colston, Chas. Edw. H. Athole
Cox, Irwin Edward Bainbridge
Cripps, Charles Alfred
Cross, Herb. Shepherd (*Bolton*
Crossley, Rt. Hon. Sir Savile
Cust, Henry John C.
Dalkeith, Earl of
Denny, Colonel
Dimsdale, Rt. Hon. Sir Joseph C.
Disraeli, Conningsby Ralph
Dixon-Hartland, Sir Fred Dixon
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers
Doxford, Sir Wm. Theodore
Duke, Henry Edward
Dyke, Rt Hon. Sir William Hart
Egerton, Hon. A. de Tatton
Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas
Faber, George Denison (*York*)
Fardell, Sir T. George
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
Fergusson, Rt. Hn. Sir J (*Manc'r*
Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Firbank, Sir Joseph Thomas
Fisher, William Hayes
FitzGerald, Sir Robert Penrose
Fitzroy, Hon. Edw. Algernon
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Flower, Ernest
Forster, Henry William
Foster, Philip S. (*Warwick, S. W*
Galloway, William Johnson
Gardner, Ernest
Gibbs, Hn A. G. H (*City of Lond*
Gibbs, Hn. Vicary (*St. Albans*
Godson, Sir Augustus Frederick
Gordon, Hn. J. E (*Elgin & Nairn*
Gore, Hn G. R. C. Ormsby-(*Salop*
Gore, Hon. S. F. Ormsby-(*Linc.*)
Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
Goschen, Hon. George Joachim
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Graham, Henry Robert
Gray, Ernest (*West Ham*)
Greene, Sir E. W. (*Bury St. Ed.*
Grenfell, William Henry
Groves, James Grimble
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Gunter, Sir Robert
Guthrie, Walter Murray
Hall, Edward Marshall
Hardy, Laurence (*Kent, Ashfd*
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Harris, Frederick Leverton
Haslam, Sir Alfred S.
Hatch, Ernest Frederick George
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Heath, James (*Staffords., N. W.*
Helder, Augustus
Henderson, Sir Alexander
Hobhouse, Rt Hn H (*Somrst E*
Hogg, Lindsay
Houldsworth, Sir Wm. Henry
Howard, Jno (*Kent, Faver'hm*
Howard, J. (*Midd., Tottenham*
Hudson, George Bickersteth)
Jessel, Captain Herbert Merton
Johnstone, Heywood
Kennedy, Patrick James
Kenyon-Slaney, Col. W. (*Salop*)
Kerr, John
Knowles, Lees
Lambton, Hon. Fredk. Wm.
Law, Andrew Bonar (*Glasgow*)
Lawrence, Wm. F. (*Liverpool*
Lawson, John Grant (*Yorks NR*
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leveson-Gower, Frederick N. S.
Llewellyn, Evan Henry
Lockwood, Lieut.-Col. A. R.
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Long, Col. Charles W. (*Evesham*
Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (*Bristol, S.*
Lowther, C. (*Cumb. Eskdale*)
Lowther, Rt. Hon. Jas. (*Kent*)

Lucas, Col. Francis (*Lowestoft*)
Lucas, Reginald J. (*Portsmouth*
Lyttelton, Hon. Alfred
Maconochie, A. W.
M'Arthur, Charles (*Liverpool*)
M'Iver, Sir Lewis (*Edinburgh W*
M'Killop, James (*Stirlingshire*)
Maxwell, Rt Hn Sir H. E. (*Wigt'n*
Meysey-Thompson, Sir H. M.
Milvain, Thomas
Mitchell, William (*Burnley*)
Montagu, G. (*Huntingdon*)
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
Morgan, David J (*Walthamstow*
Morgan, Hn. Fred. (*Monm'thsh.*
Morton, Arthur H. Aylmer
Mount, William Arthur
Murray, Rt Hn A. Graham (*Bute*
Murray, Col. Wyndham (*Bath*)
Myers, William Henry
Nicholson, William Graham
Nolan, Col. John P. (*Galway, N.*
Orr-Ewing, Charles Lindsay
Palmer, Walter (*Salisbury*)
Peel, Hn. Wm. Robert Wellesley
Pemberton, John S. G.
Percy, Earl
Pilkington, Colonel Richard
Plummer, Walter R.
Pretyman, Ernest George
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Pym, C. Guy
Randles, John S.
Ratcliff, R. F.
Rattigan, Sir William Henry
Remnant, James Farquharson
Renshaw, Sir Charles Bine
Renwick, George
Ridley, S. Forde (*Bethnal Green*
Ritchie, Rt. Hn. Chas. Thomson
Roberts, Samuel (*Sheffield*)
Robertson, Herbert (*Hackney*)
Robinson, Brooke
Rolleston, Sir John F. L.
Round, Rt. Hon. James
Rutherford, John (*Lancashire*)
Sadler, Col. Samuel Alexander
Samuel, Harry S. (*Limehouse*)
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Scott, Sir S. (*Marylebone, W.*)
Seton-Karr, Sir Henry
Simeon, Sir Barrington
Sinclair, Louis (*Romford*)
Smith, H. C (*North'mb. Tyneside*
Smith, Jas. Parker (*Lanarks.*)
Smith, Hn. W. F. D. (*Strand*)
Stanley, Lord (*Lancs.*)
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Stroyan, John
Talbot, Rt Hn. J. G. (*Oxf'd Univ.*
Thornton, Percy M.
Tomlinson, Sir Wm. Edw. M.
Tritton, Charles Ernest
Valentia, Viscount
Walrond, Rt. Hn Sir William H.
Wanklyn, James Leslie
Warde, Colonel C. E.
Webb, Colonel William George
Welby, Lt-Col. A. C. E (*Taunton*
Welby, Sir Chas. G. E. (*Notts*
Wharton, Rt. Hon. J. Lloyd
Whitely, H. (*Ashton und. Lyne*
Whitmore, Charles Algernon
Willoughby de Eresby, Lord
Willox, Sir John Archibald
Wilson, John (*Falkirk*)
Wilson, John (*Glasgow*)
Wilson-Todd, Wm. H. (*Yorks.*)
Wodehouse, Rt. Hn. E. R. (*Bath*
Worsley-Taylor, Henry Wilson
Wortley, Rt. Hn. C. B. Stuart-
Wylie, Alexander
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Wyndham-Quin, Major W. H.
Young, Samuel

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Allen, Chas. P. (*Glouc., Stroud*)
Asher, Alexander
Asquith, Rt. Hon. Herbt. Hy.
Barlow, John Emmott
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Black, Alexander William
Bolton, Thomas Dolling
Broadhurst, Henry
Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Burns, John
Burt, Thomas
Buxton, Sydney Charles
Caldwell, James
Cameron, Robert
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Causton, Richard Knight
Cawley, Frederick
Channing, Francis Allston
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Crooks, William
Davies, Alfred (*Carmarthen*)
Davies, M. Vaughan (*Cardig'n*
Dewar, John A. (*Inverness-sh.*)
Dilke, Rt Hon. Sir Charles
Douglas, Charles M. (*Lanark*)
Dunn, Sir William
Edwards, Frank
Elibank, Master of
Ellis, John Edward
Emmott, Alfred
Evans, Samuel T. (*Glamorgan*)
Fenwick, Charles
Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmund
Foster, Sir Michael (*Lond. Univ.*
Foster, Sir Walter (*Derby Co.*
Fuller, J. M. F.
Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herbert J.
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Griffith, Ellis J.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Hardie, J. Keir (*Merthyr Tydvil*
Harmsworth, R. Leicester
Harwood, George
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Charles Seale-
Hayter, Rt Hon Sir Arthur D.
Hemphill, Rt. Hon. Chas. H
Hobhouse, C. E. H. (*Bristl, E*
Holland, Sir William Henry
Hope, John Deans (*Fife, West*)
Humphreys-Owen, Arthur C.
Hutchinson, Dr. Charles Fredk.
Hutton, Alfred E. (*Morley*)
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jones, David Brynmor (*Swansea*
Jones, William (*Carnarv'nshire*
Kitson, Sir James
Langley, Batty
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leigh, Sir Joseph
Leng, Sir John
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, David
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
M'Arthur William (*Cornwall*)
M'Kenna, Reginald
Mappin, Sir Fredk. Thorpe
Mellor, Rt. Hn. John William
Morgan, J. Lloyd (*Carmarthen*)
Morley, Rt. Hn. John (*Montrose*
Moss, Samuel
Moulton, John Fletcher
Newnes, Sir George
Norman, Henry
Palmer, Sir C. M. (*Durham*)
Partington, Oswald
Paulton, James Mellor
Philipps, John Wynford
Pirie, Duncan V.
Price, Robert John
Rea, Russell
Rickett, J. Compton
Roberts, John H. (*Denbighs.*)
Runciman, Walter
Samuel, Herbert L. (*Cleveland*
Schwann, Charles E.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Charles E. (*Stafford*)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair, John (*Forfarshire*)
Stevenson, Francis S.
Taylor, Theodore C. (*Radcliffe*)
Thomas, Sir A. (*Glamorgan, E.*)
Thomas, David A. (*Merthyr*)
Thomson, F. W. (*York, W. R.*)
Tomkinson, James
Toulmin, George
Wason, Eugene (*Clackmannan*
Wason, J. Cathcart (*Orkney*)
Weir, James Galloway
Whiteley, G. (*York, W. R.*)
Whitley, J. H. (*Halifax*)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Williams, O. (*Merioneth*)
Wilson, Chas. H. (*Hull, W.*)
Wilson, F. W. (*Norfolk, Mid*)
Wilson, John (*Durham, Mid*)
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Mansfield and Mr. Soares.

COLONEL LEGGE (St. George's, Hanover Square) said that the object of the Amendment he had on the Paper was to put London on the same footing as the rest of the country in regard to the rate for technical and secondary education. Under the Technical Instruction Act of 1889 the rate was limited to 1d. in the £. That Act was repealed last year and under the Education Act of last year the limit was raised to 2d. in the £ for higher education. In the County of London no rate for this purpose had ever been raised at all. The London County Council—and he did not say it in a spirit of hostility to that body, as he was a Member of it for five years—had not raised a penny of rates for their technical education work, which had been of the very best. They had not even spent the whole of the whiskey money on technical education. They had been able to spend as much money as was necessary for that purpose and at the same time to devote a certain amount of the money received from the whiskey account to the reduction of rates. It seemed to him that it was quite unnecessary that, in this Bill, London should be given the power to levy an unlimited rate for higher education. For the year ending 31st March, 1902, he found that the Beer and Wine duties amounted to £212,712, and that the County Council grant to the Technical Education Committee was only £180,000, leaving a sum of £32,712 for the reduction of rates. A rate of 2d. in the £ for London produced £338,256, which added to the Beer and Wine duties for the year 1902, made a total of £550,968. The London School Board spent in the same year, 1902, on the education of pupil teachers £25,732, and on Evening Continuation Schools £106,558, making a total of £132,290. There was also Lord Rosebery's scheme which had been launched, and in which his Lordship made a demand on the London County Council for the annual sum of £20,000. Adding all these amounts together—the twopenny rate, the amount granted for technical education, for evening continuation schools, and for Lord Rosebery's scheme, there would be available for further expenditure a sum of £218,678. That being the case it seemed to him that there could be no sufficient reason for not limiting the rate for London to the same limit as that throughout the country. He begged to move—

"In page 3, to leave out lines 14 and 15."—(*Colonel Legge.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Bill."

DR. MACNAMARA said he did not think the 2d. would be wanted, and he was quite sure it would not be raised at once. But whether that was so or not the hon. Gentleman was entirely incorrect when he stated that his Amendment would put London in the same position as the rest of the country was under the Bill of last year. Surely what the Government intended to do for London was what it did for Leeds, Birmingham and other large towns in the country. The hon. Member could not have read Section 2, which allowed towns to raise anything they pleased but restricted the rate raised by the counties to 2d. The 2d. was put on for what were called the agricultural counties. It was never intended that that limit should apply to urban districts. Owing to the unfortunate fact of London being described as a county governed by a County Council it was thought to bring it under this restriction and restrict the rate to 2d. When this section was under discussion the whole debate turned on the necessity of leaving the great towns to raise exactly what they pleased whilst the limit so far as the agricultural counties were concerned was restricted to 2d. He appealed to the Parliamentary Secretary not to place London, simply because it was a county, on a different footing from Leeds, Manchester, Birmingham, and the other great urban communities of the country. The limit of 2d. was removed from those communities under the Act of last year, and was confined to Rural County Councils. He hoped that decision would be adhered to in the case of London.

MR. WHITLEY (Halifax) hoped that, in the interests of education in London, the Government would not allow this matter to go by default but would stand by their Bill, and would not be led away by the demands of their supporters.

Sir FREDERICK BANBURY (Camberwell, Peckham) said he sincerely hoped that the Parliamentary Secretary would accept the Amendment. It seemed to him that there was already plenty of money for the purposes of higher education, and, indeed, the hon Member for Camberwell admitted that there was an ample margin, because he said he did not think the 2d. would be raised in the first instance. The rates in London were very high as it was, and, in view of this fact, as well as of the circumstance that there was a sufficient margin to provide double the amount of higher education now given, he thought the views of London members on that side of the House, who were almost unanimous, might be respected in this matter.

Mr. BRYCE said he ventured to hope the Government would not take the course suggested by the hon. Baronet opposite. The acceptance of this Amendment would be tantamount to reversing one of the most important decisions arrived at last year. Last year the House deliberately resolved that the great towns should have power to rate themselves without any limit. He agreed that they must not be extravagant, but it would be an unheard-of thing if they were to deprive London of a power which all the other great communities in the country enjoyed. It was merely an accident that London was governed by a County Council, and he looked forward to the time when it would become a great city governed by a city council. He hoped the powers given to other great towns would be given to London.

Captain JESSEL did not see why the same law which applied to other County Councils should not apply in his matter to the London County Council. Hon. Members could not have it both ways. London was either a town or a county, it could not be both. With regard to the twopenny rate it had been conclusively shown that there was a margin of £250,000 so that they could expend exactly double the amount they were now spending before they reached the limit. He thought the Amendment was a reasonable one. If the education authority of London had a free purse to draw upon, it might lead to reckless expenditure. Both in the interests of economy and of those who had to pay the rates, it was only fair that the safeguard provided by his hon. friend's Amendment should be adopted by the Government.

*Sir WILLIAM ANSON said he was sorry to find himself in conflict with his hon. friends, but he could not possibly accept this Amendment. They were told by his hon. friends that London would not want all this money, that it had not spent the whole of the £250,000 applicable to secondary education, and that a twopenny rate would produce as much as this again and leave a large margin. If that were so, what was it his hon. friends were afraid of? London had never yet raised any rate for secondary education; and as a twopenny rate would produce the large sum mentioned by his hon. friend who moved the Amendment he could not see any grounds for the fear that London would be overburdened by rates for higher education. His hon. friends must bear in mind that secondary education was the part of their education which had been hitherto most starved, which needed money more than any other department of their education, and on which the country demanded that money should be spent. He would also remind them that there would be, when this Bill came into operation, a considerable sum taken off the charge for elementary education and thrown on to the charge for secondary education when the Cockerton schools all passed into the region of secondary education. His reason for not accepting the Amendment was that he felt he must save London from itself. Last year there was a limit proposed not only in the case of the agricultural counties but in the case of all the county boroughs. The county boroughs pressed to be allowed to deal freely with their own, and asked to have the limit taken away, and to be able to spend what they liked on secondary education. The limit was removed, and he should not be willing—

in fact, he could not consent—to take powers from London which were possessed by Manchester, Leeds, Birmingham, and other places in the country. For these reasons it was impossible for the Government to accept the Amendment, and he was sorry it had been moved and supported as strongly as it had been by friends with whom he had acted.

Question put, and agreed to.

SIR JOSEPH DIMSDALE (City of London) said the Amendment he proposed to move was practically the same Amendment he moved in May last in connection with the secondary schools of the City of London. The hon. Baronet on that occasion accepted the Amendment, but subsequently withdrew his acceptance because, as he stated, he did not understand it to refer to elementary schools but to secondary schools. He hoped the Government would have no difficulty in accepting the Amendment now. Its object was to render it non-compulsory for the elementary schools of the City of London to come under the jurisdiction of the education authority should the governors otherwise decide. In the City of London they had three Board Schools which, however, were on the confines of the east boundary, and educated children who came principally from the other side. On the other hand they had thirteen or fourteen Church, National, and Parochial schools, none of which, with one exception, received either aid from the Parliamentary grant or from the educational authority. He hoped, therefore, the hon. Baronet in charge of this Bill would be able to see his way to accept this Amendment.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 3, at the end of line 15, to insert the words 'The provisions of Section 5 and Sub-section 2 of Section 6 of the principal Act shall not be construed so as to subject any endowed elementary school in the City of London not applying for a Parliamentary Grant or for aid from the local education authority to the control or management of the local education authority.'"—(*Sir Joseph Dimsdale.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted in the Bill."

*SIR WILLIAM ANSON pointed out that the provision was not necessary, inasmuch as in the principal Act one of the conditions required to be fulfilled by an elementary school in order to obtain the Parliamentary grant was that it should be maintained under, or comply with, the provisions of Section 7, otherwise it was not entitled to the Parliamentary grant; if it was not entitled to receive the Parliamentary grant, then under Section 7 of the Act of 1870 it was not a public elementary school, and did not come under the control of the local education authority.

SIR JOSEPH DIMSDALE said after the explanation of the hon. Baronet he would, with permission of the House, withdraw the Amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Amendments proposed to the Bill—

"In page 3, line 17, to leave out the words 'of Sub-section one.'

In page 3, line 19, to leave out the words 'enables the local authority to group,' and insert the words 'relates to.'

In page 3, line 20, to leave out the word 'them,' and insert the words 'the local education authority.'"—(*Sir William Anson.*)

Amendments agreed to.

SIR JOSEPH DIMSDALE said the Amendment he now moved would recall to the House the Bill as it was originally introduced, of which very little if anything remained. He asked that what was offered to the City of London in the Bill, originally might be restored to the Bill and that the City of London might be placed in the position in which it had been placed by successive Governments in matters affecting the government of the Metropolis. In asking for direct representation for the City of London, he pointed out that special representation had been given to the City on the School Board by the Education Act of 1870, and on the County Council by the Local Government Act of 1888. In other Acts also special representation had been given to the City. The City of London had always had special recognition in matters relating to the Metropolis, the London Government Bill specially exempting the City of London from its provisions. He asked that they might have representation in the matter under discussion, first, because they claimed to be a county in themselves, and secondly, what the City had done for education in the past, they having been practically the pioneers of education in this country, gave them a claim which might reasonably be looked upon with favour by the House. The Government could not plead that they were unaware of the feelings of the City on this matter, inasmuch as their views were clearly expressed to Lord Londonderry and the Parliamentary Secretary on the occasion of a deputation as far back as January last. The City desired nothing more than to be left alone, to be the education authority for the City of London; but, failing that, they strongly urged that they should have direct representation on the central body. He begged to move.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 3, after line 20, at the end, to insert the words 'Any scheme made or approved under Section seventeen of the principal Act shall provide for the representation of the Mayor, Aldermen, and Commons of the City of London, in Common Council assembled, by at least two members on the Education Committee.'"—(*Sir Joseph Dimsdale.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted in the Bill."

*Sir WILLIAM ANSON said he could only repeat very much what he had said yesterday in response to the appeal of hon. Members from the City that the City might be treated as a separate county. He then said that it was from no want of a sense of the value of the services of the City to education in the past that the Government found themselves unable to accede to that request. As this Bill was first presented there was a statutory Committee formed, and to representation on that Committee the City had a special claim, but that scheme was removed from the Bill. It was impossible now to go back to that principle of a statutory Committee and to introduce certain members on to the Committee perforce, however deserving and important they might be. Having framed the Bill as it now stood, leaving the London County Council in a position, like the other County Councils in the kingdom, to choose its own Committee, the Government could not now place on that Committee persons who were not required to be there under the general terms of the principal Act. He regretted the City had not the place it was originally intended to occupy, but it was too late now to alter the character of the Committee.

Mr. ALBAN GIBBS (London) pointed out that the position of the City of London greatly differed from that of other boroughs. As the hon. Member for Camberwell had pointed out, they spent about £100 for every child within its area, whereas the actual cost was only about £5, the remainder being the contribution of the City towards the general fund for education. No other borough was in that position. It might be true that one borough contributed as much as the City, but that borough had a great many more children, and so got more value for its money in that way. They did not complain of having to provide the money, but they thought that those who paid the piper should call the tune.

Sir WILLIAM TOMLINSON (Preston) regretted the Government had not seen their way to give the City of London a special position in this matter. He thought that some regard might have been had to the long connection of the City with education, and there was no doubt that that special representation would have been an element of great value. The changes the Bill had undergone had, to some extent, impaired the quality of the body to which the management of education was to be entrusted, as it would not now be necessary to consult those bodies which had every interest in putting on to the Education Committee the persons best qualified for the work.

Mr. SAMUEL EVANS said the request of the City representatives was tantamount to a declaration that they had not in the City any persons acquainted with the needs of the schools, or experienced in matters of education, because if they had such persons they could be brought in by the schemes which the County Council had to put forward. If the history of the City was as had been represented, it would be quite competent for them to have representatives on the Committee.

Question put, and negatived.

*SIR WILLIAM ANSON moved an Amendment providing that the Board of Education may, on the application of the trustees of an endowment, direct that any money which would be payable to the County Council under Section 13 of the principal Act shall be applied in manner provided by a scheme made by the Board of Education, if the Board consider that it is expedient to make such a scheme, with a view to preserving the benefits of the endowment to the locality for which those benefits were intended. He said it was quite clear that the endowment clause in the principal Act was not applicable to London. That clause provided that endowments should go in one of two ways, either for the purposes the managers had to meet or for purposes the local authority had to meet, and in the latter case the money came back in aid of the rates of the parish for which the endowment was given. This could not happen in London. Where the income of an endowment was of considerable magnitude, there was generally an opportunity of suggesting that in order to meet difficulties which might arise it would be better to frame a scheme under which some other purpose than the simple, ordinary purposes of the education authority or the repair of the fabric might be met and something done for the children outside the ordinary provision of a school. The object of the Act was that the endowment should go to the locality intended to be benefited, and from that principle the Government were not prepared to depart. But, as he had said, the clause was not applicable to London; hence this Amendment.

His proposal was that—

"The Board of Education may, on the application of the trustees of the endowment, direct that any money which would be payable under the said section thirteen to the County Council shall be applied in manner provided by a scheme made by the Board if the Board consider that it is expedient to make such a scheme with a view of preserving the benefits of the endowment to the locality for which those benefits were intended."

He wished to point out that the money which would otherwise go simply in aid of the rates might be diverted by this proposal to some of the higher purposes of education for the benefit of the locality. His right hon. friend the Member for Aberdeen had an Amendment on the Paper to insert after the word "endowment" the words "or of the local education authority." He should be quite willing to accept those words. He did not think, however, that it would be quite fair to accept the right hon. Gentleman's next Amendment, leaving out all words from the word "scheme."

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 3, line 23, at end, to insert the words 'but the Board of Education may, on the application of the trustees of the endowment, direct that any money which would be payable under the said section thirteen to the County Council shall be applied in manner provided by a scheme made by the Board if the Board consider that it is expedient to make such a scheme with a view of preserving the benefits of the endowment to the locality for which those benefits were intended.' "—(*Sir William Anson.*)

Question proposed "That those words be there inserted in the Bill."

SIR MICHAEL FOSTER (London University) said he was very gratified that the hon. Baronet had seen his way to introduce this Amendment. The great usefulness of this small concession would only become apparent when it was put into operation. Although the principle of the Bill was the co-ordination of secondary and elementary education, still the Bill had left many gaps between the two, and a provision of this kind would be a ready and easy method of bridging over that gap in very many cases. It would provide what he might call the luxuries for deserving children in the elementary schools, and he felt very much gratified that such a proposal had been added to the Bill. He was glad that the Secretary to the Board of Education had seen his way to accept the first Amendment standing in the name of the right hon. Gentleman, the Member for Aberdeen, and he should have been pleased if the hon. Baronet could have accepted the second

Amendment also. Undoubtedly the Board of Education in all their schemes would have due regard to the interests of the locality, but he could conceive of cases arising in which the whole of the endowments would not be spent to the best profit in what was spoken of as "the locality." The Amendment of the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Aberdeen gave the Board of Education the power in those unusual cases to bestow, for the benefit of districts other than the locality, money which, if spent upon the locality itself, might really be wasted.

MR. CRIPPS (Lancashire, Stretford) said it was most important that they should not interfere with these endowments until they saw exactly what was going to be done. Although these endowments might, to a certain extent, be used in the way of saving the rates, yet he thought the principle should be to get the help of these endowments in order to give special advantages to education and encourage the poor children by means of scholarships and open to them the benefits of secondary education in country districts. It was a great defect in the principal Act that some scheme of that kind was not adopted. He protested against a proposal of this kind not being inserted in the Act of last year, and he had protested constantly against putting educational expense upon the ratepayers as against getting money from other sources. This proposal only dealt with those portions of endowments which would have gone in aid of the rates to the County Council, and it did not in any way touch those endowments which under the principal Act went to the local managers, and which would in the case of voluntary schools be used for their assistance. He agreed that instead of wasting an endowment it ought to be used in the real interests of education. He should most cordially support a proposal that this should be done, not only on the application of the trustees, but also, if necessary, on the application of the local education authority. After all, this proposal only enabled the local education authority to use this money in a particular way, instead of using it in aid of the ratepayers. What they wanted in education was access to sums of this kind, not necessarily very large sums, but which were nevertheless of the utmost importance in order to give those incidental advantages to their educational system which gave opportunities which were not provided by the ordinary rate-aided schools. Both as regarded dealing with endowments and the probable use this money would be put to, he thought this provision was an enormous improvement on the original Bill of last session.

MR. BRYCE said he was very glad that the Government had seen their way to introduce this clause, carrying out the undertaking which the Secretary to the Board of Education gave when the Bill was in Committee. He thought this was a very great improvement to the Bill, and he was sure that that would be the opinion of all those who knew the condition of endowments both in London and elsewhere. He did not think anyone in their time had done more for this branch of education than the eminent man they had just lost, Sir Joshua Fitch, and almost the last communication he received from that distinguished man was a request that he would bring this matter before the House. He begged to move the Amendment standing in his name.

Proposed Amendment to the Bill amended by inserting—

"In line 2, after the word 'endowment,' the words 'or of the local education authority'."—(*Mr. Bryce.*)

MR. BRYCE said he would now move his second Amendment, to leave out from the word "scheme" to the end of the Amendment. The Secretary to the Board of Education had expressed a disposition not to accept this Amendment, but he would venture to submit a few arguments which might perhaps affect the hon. Baronet's view in regard to his pr posal. What was the alternative to the making of a scheme? The alternative would be to let money go back into the general fund to be used for the general relief of the ratepayers of London. That was no benefit to the locality although it might be an infinitesimal benefit to the ratepayers of London. He could not conceive how it could be fair to a locality to throw the money into a fund from which the locality would not derive any benefit whatever. Upon his hon. friend's own showing it would be better for him to accept the Amendment. What was the result of the last words in his Amendment? It was that a scheme could only be made wherever it was possible to preserve the benefits of the endowment to a particular locality. There were places where it could not be made available to the locality, because that locality might have become practically depopulated. That was the case in the City of London, where many localities had become so depopulated that Parliament passed the City Parochial Charities Act, which took away those charities and applied them all over London. Although that was chiefly the case with the City it was by no means confined to the City, and there were other parts of London outside the City where the same process of depopulation was going on; that was to say, where warehouses and manufactories were rapidly taking the place of inhabited houses. This process was going on, and had been going on for centuries. In cases of that kind it would be impossible to reserve the benefit of the endowment to that part of the country. The descendants of those who were the friends and neighbours of the pious founder some three centuries ago were living now outside London. Why should they not have the benefit of the endowment simply because they had not continued to reside in the particular locality? Why because they were living in West Ham or North Hackney, or farther out, should they not have the benefit the founder intended to give them? He submitted that a real desire on the part of Parliament to follow the wish of the testator would induce them to apply the benefit over the wider area. Might he put this point to the Government? The clause gave the Board of Education absolute discretion. They need not make a scheme unless they liked, and therefore the Government were needlessly tying their hands and limiting their power, and that of their successors, if they introduced the limitation which came at the end of his hon. friend's Amendment. All that they had to do was to satisfy themselves that the case was one in which educational good was to be done. The Government should remember that when the pious founder gave this money he was thinking not only of the locality but of education. He had two objects—one to benefit education, and the other to benefit the locality. Because they could not carry out the object of benefiting the locality, was that any reason why they should not carry out the object of benefiting education? He should like to ask the Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Education why it was he thought this action of the Board of Education should be entirely limited to a case in which the locality should continue to be specially benefited, and why the money should not also be applied where education was to be benefited. He hoped his hon. friend would reconsider his views and would feel that if the question was between helping education and the ratepayers, it was rather education than the ratepayers that ought to be the object of the pious founder's benefaction.

Amendment proposed to the proposed Amendment to the Bill—

"In line 5, to leave out from the word 'scheme' to the end of the proposed Amendment."

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the proposed Amendment to the Bill.

SIR WILLIAM ANSON said he would repeat now what he said before the right hon. Gentleman spoke—that the locality interested ought to be primarily considered. But it was doubtless true that there were some localities which might have grown out of the endowments, or rather the objects of the endowment would not be satisfied by being confined to the locality for which they were originally intended. He would be prepared to insert the following words—

"In any such scheme due regard shall be had to the interests of the locality for which the benefits of the endowment were intended."

MR. BRYCE said he was quite willing to accept that Amendment.

Question put, and negatived.

Amendment proposed to the proposed Amendment to the Bill—

"After the word 'scheme' in line 5, to add the words 'in any such scheme due regard shall be had to the interests of the locality for which the benefits of the endowment were intended.' "—(*Sir William Anson.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there added to the proposed Amendment."

MR. CRIPPS moved that the word "primarily" be inserted before the word "intended."

Proposed Amendment to the proposed Amendment to the Bill amended—

"By inserting after the word 'shall' the word 'primarily.' "—(*Mr. Cripps.*)

Proposed words, as amended, added to the proposed Amendment to the Bill.

Proposed words, as amended, there inserted in the Bill.

DR. MACNAMARA moved the insertion of a new paragraph in the first Schedule with the object of ensuring that six women would always be on the Education Committee. At the present time, under the London School Board, the teaching staff consisted of 4,368 men teachers and 8,967 women teachers The women showed a preponderance of two to one. The Government said that they should trust the London County Council to put a due proportion of women on the Education Committee. He was not prepared to trust the London County Council in that matter. At present they had a Technical Instruction Committee consisting of thirty-five members, of whom only two were women. Supposing this Board had seventy members, the proportion which the County Council would give would be four seats to women. He did not think that was enough. He thought the Parliamentary Secretary seriously, but quite unintentionally, misled the House as to the presence of women on the Committees throughout the country. On 20th May he said there was no reason to suppose that the London County Council would be less attentive in this matter than the others had been. There were, he said, councils which had elected five, four, three, and two women, and that the cases in which only one woman was appointed were very few. The Parliamentary Secretary had provided a Return dated down to the end of May this year, which showed that statement to be entirely incorrect. There were sixty-four authorities mentioned, and not one of them had five women, and not one had four. There were two authorities each with three women, forty-five with two women, and seventeen with one woman.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 4, line 6, at the end, to insert the words 'There shall always be at least six women upon the Education Committee of the local education authority.' " — (*Dr. Macnamara.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted in the Bill."

*SIR WILLIAM ANSON said he could explain the discrepancy between the statement he made in the House and the Return to which the hon. Member referred, but would not do so here. He did not mislead the House the other day. He was afraid he must say again what he said in the Committee stage of the Bill that there was no reason he could see for thinking that the London County Council would be less generous than other County Councils. It might be true that there were only two women on the Technical Instruction Committee of the London County Council. Now they were dealing with elementary education and he felt confident that the proportion observed on the Technical Instruction Committee would be largely exceeded. He was not prepared to see the London County Council treated in a different way from the other County Councils of the country.

MR. BRYCE said their experience of the other County Councils and Borough Councils since the passing of the Act of 1902, showed that they could not safely trust this to the mere benevolence and good will of bodies consisting mostly of men. It was necessary for this House to fix the statutory minimum in order to secure an adequate attendance of women on those Boards.

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 93; Noes, 176. (Division List No. 170.)

AYES.

Allen, Charles P (*Glouc., Stroud*
Asher, Alexander
Barlow, John Emmott
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Black, Alexander, William
Bolton, Thomas Dolling
Broadhurst, Henry
Brown, George M. (*Edinburgh*
Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Burns, John
Buxton, Sydney Charles
Caldwell, James
Cameron, Robert
Causton, Richard Knight
Cawley, Frederick
Channing, Francis Alston
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Crooks, William
Davies, Alfred (*Carmarthen*)
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Douglas, Charles M. (*Lanark*)
Dunn, Sir William
Elibank, Master of
Fenwick, Charles
Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmund
Foster, Sir Michael (*Lond. Univ*
Foster, Sir Walter (*Derby Co.*
Furness, Sir Christopher
Gladstone, Rt Hn. Herbert John
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Gorst, Rt. Hn. Sir John Eldon
Griffith, Ellis J.
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Harmsworth, R. Leicester
Harwood, George
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Hobhouse, C. E. H. (*Bristl, E*
Hope, John Deans (*Fife, West*)
Humphreys-Owen, Arthur C.
Hutchinson, Dr. Charles Fredk
Hutton, Alfred E. (*Morley*)
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jones, William (*Carnarvonsh.*
Labouchere, Henry
Langley, Batty
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (*Cornwall*)
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leng, Sir John
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, David
Macdonna, John Cumming
M'Arthur, William (*Cornwall*
Markham, Arthur Basil
Morgan, J. Lloyd (*Carmarthen*
Moss, Samuel
Newnes, Sir George
Norman, Henry
Partington, Oswald
Perks, Robert William
Philipps, John Wynford
Priestley, Arthur
Rickett, J. Compton
Roberts, John Bryn (*Eifion*)
Roberts, John H. (*Denbighs.*)
Runciman, Walter
Samuel, Herbert L. (*Cleveland*
Schwann, Charles E.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Charles Edw. (*Stafford*)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair, John (*Forfarshire*)
Smith, H. C (*North'mb Tyneside*
Soares, Ernest J.
Strachey, Sir Edward
Taylor, Theodore C. (*Radclffe*
Thomas, Sir A. (*Glamorgan, E.*
Thomas, David Alfred (*Merthyr*
Thomson, F. W. (*York, W. R.*)
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Walton, Joseph (*Barnsley*)
Wason, John Cathcart (*Orkney*
Weir, James Galloway
Whiteley, George (*York, W. R.*
Whitley, J. H. (*Halifax*)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Williams, Osmonde (*Merioneth*
Wilson, F. W. (*Norfolk, Mid*)
Wilson, Henry J. (*York, W. R.*
Wilson, John (*Durham, Mid*)
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Dr. Macnamara and Mr. Mansfield.

NOES.

Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Arrol, Sir William
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Aubrey-Fletcher, Rt. Hn. Sir H.
Bagot, Capt. Josceline FitzRoy
Bailey, James (*Walworth*)
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Baird, John George Alexander
Baldwin, Alfred
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J. (*Manch'r*
Balfour, Capt. C. B. (*Hornsey*
Balfour, Rt Hn Gerald W (*Leeds*
Balfour, Kenneth R. (*Christch*
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Bathurst, Hon. Allen Benj.
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.
Bigwood, James
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Bull, William James
Butcher, John George
Campbell, Rt Hn J A (*Glasg.*)
Campbell, J. H. M. (*Dublin Univ*
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H
Cautley, Henry Strother
Cavendish, V. C. W. (*Derbyshire*
Cayzer, Sir Charles William
Cecil, Evelyn (*Aston Manor.*
Cecil, Lord Hugh (*Greenwich*
Chamberlain, Rt. Hn. J. (*Birm*)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hn. J A (*Worc*
Chamberlayne, T. (*Southmptn*
Chapman, Edward
Charrington, Spencer
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Clive, Captain Percy A.
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colomb, Sir John Chas. Ready
Cook, Sir Frederick Lucas
Cripps, Charles Alfred
Cross, Alexander (*Glasgow*)
Cross, Herb. Shepherd (*Bolton*)
Crossley, Rt. Hon. Sir Savile
Cubitt, Hon. Henry
Cust, Henry, John C.
Dalkeith, Earl of
Denny, Colonel
Doughty, George
Doxford, Sir William Theodore
Duke, Henry Edward
Dyke, Rt. Hon. Sir Wm. Hart
Evans, Samuel T. (*Glamorgan*)
Faber, George Denison (*York*)
Fardell, Sir T. George
Fergusson, Rt. Hn Sir J. (*Manc'r*
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
FitzGerald, Sir Robt. Penrose
Fitzroy, Hon. Edw. Algernon
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Flower, Ernest
Forster, Henry William
Foster, Philip S. (*Warick, S. W.*
Galloway, William Johnson
Gardner, Ernest
Godson, Sir Augustus Frederick
Gordon, Hn. J. E. (*Elgin & Nrn.*
Gore, Hn. G R C. Ormsby-(*Salop*
Gore, Hn. S. F. Ormsby-(*Linc.*
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Greene, Sir E W (*B'ry S. Edm'nd*
Grenfell, William Henry
Groves, James Grimble
Hall, Edward Marshall
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Harris, Frederick Leverton
Haslam, Sir Alfred S.
Hatch, Ernest Frederick G.
Heath, James (*Staffords, N. W.*
Helder, Augustus
Henderson, Sir Alexander
Hogg, Lindsay
Hoult, Joseph
Houston, Robert Paterson

Howard, Jno (*Kent, Faver'hm*
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Jessel, Captain Herbert Merton
Johnstone, Heywood
Kemp, Lieut.-Colonel George
Kenyon, Hon. G. T. (*Denbigh*
Kenyon-Slaney, Col. W. (*Salop*
Kerr, John
Keswick, William
Lambton, Hon. Fredk. Wm.
Law, Andrew Bonar (*Glasgow*
Lawrence, Wm. F. (*Liverpool*
Lawson, John Grant
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leveson-Gower, Frederick N. S
Llewellyn, Evan Henry
Lockwood, Lieut.-Col. A. R.
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Long, Col. Chas. W. (*Evesham*
Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (*Bristol, S*
Lowther, C. (*Cumb. Eskdale*)
Lucas, Col. Francis (*Lowestoft*)
Lucas, Regl'd J. (*Portsmouth*)
MacIver, David (*Liverpool*)
M'Arthur, Charles (*Liverpool*)
M'Iver, Sir Lewis (*Edinburgh W*
M'Killop, James (*Stirlingshire*
Majdndie, James A. H.
Maxwell, Rt Hn Sir H E (*Wigt'n*)
Meysey-Thompson, Sir H. M.
Milvain, Thomas
Mitchell, William (*Burnley*)
Montagu, G. (*Huntingdon*)
Montagu Hon. J. Scott (*Hants*)
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
Morton, Arthur H. Aylmer
Mount, William Arthur
Murray, Rt. Hn A Graham (*Bute*
Myers, William Henry
Nicholson, William Graham
Nolan, Col. John P (*Galway, N.*
Palmer, Walter (*Salisbury*)
Percy, Earl
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Plummer, Walter R.
Pretyman, Ernest George
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Pym, C. Guy
Randles, John S.
Ratcliff, R. F.
Reid, James (*Greenock*)
Remnant, James Farquharson
Renwick, George
Ridley, S. F. (*Bethnal Green*)
Ritchie, Rt. Hn. Chas. Thomson
Roberts, Samuel (*Sheffield*)
Robertson, Herbert (*Hackney*)
Rolleston, Sir John F. L.
Round, Rt. Hon. James
Sadler, Col. Samuel Alexander
Samuel, Harry (*Limehouse*)
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Skewes-Cox, Thomas
Smith, James Parker (*Lanarks.*
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (*Strand*
Stanley, Hon. A. (*Ormskirk*)
Stanley, Lord (*Lancs.*)
Stirling-Maxwell, Sir Jn. M.
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Talbot, Rt. Hn. J G. (*Oxf d Univ*
Tomlinson, Sir Wm. Edw. M.
Valentia, Viscount
Walrond, Rt. Hn Sir William H.
Warde, Colonel C. E.
Welby, Lt.-Col A. C. E. (*Taunton*
Welby, Sir Charles G. E. (*Notts*
Wharton, Rt. Hon. J. Lloyd
Whiteley, H (*Ashton und. Lyne*
Willox, Sir John Archibald
Wilson, John (*Glasgow*)
Worsley-Taylor, Hry. Wilson
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-
Wylie, Alexander
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Young, Samuel

TELLERS FOR THE NOES.—Mr. Anstruther and Mr. Fellowes.

And, it being after half-past Seven of the clock, further consideration of the Bill, as amended, stood adjourned till this Evening's Sitting.

EVENING SITTING.

LONDON EDUCATION BILL.

As amended, further considered.

DR. MACNAMARA said he desired the Government to insert at the end of the schedule a proviso to the effect that the Education Committee of the local education authority should transact all its ordinary business in public. He wished that the representatives of the Press, and, as far as accommodation allowed, the ratepayers, should be admitted to the ordinary business of the Committee. That had been the policy of the great School Boards ever since the passing of the Act of 1870; no difficulty had arisen, for whenever a personal question, or some matter for which publicity was not desired, came up, the representatives of the Press and others had been asked to withdraw, and had withdrawn. They would be told, perhaps, that these new authorities were merely Committees of the great municipal authority, and therefore did no business which it was necessary should be transacted in public. He, however, denied that suggestion; in reality they were great public boards. In the case of London the education authority would undertake work equal in magnitude to the whole education of Scotland, or three times greater than the education of Wales, and the financial responsibility amounted to very nearly £4,000,000. In the past London had suffered very severely from jobbery and malfeasance owing to the lack of such publicity as he now advocated. In reference to the Bill of last year the Prime Minister, on July 30, had said in answer to a Question, that—

> "Everything would be done in public,"

and that—

> "Nothing henceforth could be done in secret nothing could be done except in the full light of day and in the blaze of publicity."

As a matter of fact that statement was beside the mark; for in Surrey, Northumberland, and Somerset, and he believed in other localities, the education authority had recommended that its meetings should be private, and this had been agreed to by the County Council. The right hon. Member for East Somerset had suggested that if conducted in private the proceedings would be shorter; that might be so, and he rather imagined that if there were no reporters the proceedings in the House of Commons would not be so lengthy, and that the popularity of this House, with Members, too, would not be so great. There was this great set-off, however, that the presence of the Press secured that the administration should be wise, sound, and above suspicion. He might be told by the Parliamentary Secretary, because there was no other answer, to trust to the County Council. But in this connection it should be remembered that the proceedings of the County Council's technical education board were not public; and its transactions were, practically, never canvassed in public. He begged to move.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 4, line 6, at the end, to insert the words '(10) The education committee of the local education authority shall transact all its ordinary business in public.'"—(*Dr. Macnamara.*

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted in the Bill."

*MR. COHEN said the hon. Member for Camberwell spoke with unrivalled authority in this House on the procedure of the London School Board. He himself spoke with less, but still with some, authority of the London County Council. Although he was not entirely in sympathy with the policy of the London County Council he was bound to admit that their work was conducted with business-like dispatch and regular procedure. In committee work no party spirit was imported, and everyone confined himself solely to the consideration of administrative and business matters which contrasted favourably with the oratorical and Party spirit that invariably was displayed on Tuesdays, when in the presence of the reporters members of the Council were apt to play to the gallery rather than to address themselves to the matters in question. The hon. Member had spoken of the necessity of protecting the administration of this large amount of money from the possibility of malfeasance and jobbery. Anyone who had done him (Mr. Cohen) the honour to follow what he had said when London County Council matters had been discussed in this House and he had always felt it his duty to defend the London County Council from the many libellous statements that had been made in respect of it—would agree with him when he said if there was one body which was as free as the London School Board had always been from any amount of malfeasance, that body was the London County Council. He thought that any errors that might be committed in Committee could be put right, and would be put right, when the matter came before the supreme tribunal--the education authority. He did not know what the attitude of the hon. Baronet would be towards the Amendment, but he could assure him, speaking from experience, that if there was one body it was superfluous to protect against the accusation of corruption that body was the London County Council. He was sorry that there should be any hesitation on the part of his hon. friend the Member for Camberwell, or in any quarter, to trust the Education Committee of the London County Council because reporters were not present.

*MR. YOXALL said he hoped they would brush away all this talk about corruption and malfeasance as being irrelevant. It was no question of corruption or malversation either of the London County Council or the School Board, nor was it a question of whether the London County Council should sit in public. It was a question of whether the Education Committee should sit in public. It was not a question of the length or brevity of speeches. The important thing was that the decisions to which those speeches led up should be arrived at in the full light of publicity, with the knowledge that they would be reported in the Press and therefore must be as wise as could be arrived at. He hoped this question would not be argued on the ground of the saving of time. It was not a question of the debates that would take place on a Technical Educational body, a body dealing with one branch of education alone and dealing with comparatively few schools. It was a question of whether that body, being replaced by one which would have a much wider purview and multifarious duties to perform and giving much more time to the subject in view, should, like that body, conduct its proceedings in private. The practice hitherto adopted by the London School Board was to conduct its proceedings in the presence of the Press and he would hardly think the hon. Baronet would like to think there was any risk whatever that proceedings which had hitherto been conducted in public would now be conducted in private. It was not in the interest of peace or public tranquility that these proceedings should be conducted in private. They could not eliminate the denominational heat from these discussions so long as they had two classes of schools; and if the proceedings of this body were not reported, if there was the least suspicion of the suppression of them and their seclusion from the public eye, the suspicion outside would become tenfold more acute than it was at the present time. It could do no harm to specify in this Act that the Education Committee should meet in public, and if there was any danger of its not meeting in public it was the duty of this House to prevent any such thing taking place. For these reasons he hoped the Amendment would receive the favourable consideration of the hon. Baronet.

* SIR WILLIAM ANSON said that the Amendment had been discussed as if the Government had a preference for private proceedings on the part of the Education Committee. No one had any desire that the proceedings should be in private; and the real question was whether the County Council should be allowed to regulate the procedure of its own Education Committee. With all their confidence in popularly-elected authorities, some hon. Members seemed never able to trust such authorities to do the thing they desired to be done unless they were constrained by an Act of Parliament. The London County Council was quite capable of regulating the proceedings of its own Committee. It was said that great financial operations would be dealt with and large sums of money would be spent, and that the public ought to know what was being spent; but after all the County Council was the financial authority, the Education Committee could not borrow money, and the County Council would publish their accounts and these education accounts would be published with the others. He did not think there was the slightest desire to conceal from the public their proceedings; but there were a good many matters the initiation of which the members of the Committee would wish to discuss thoroughly in private. Any one who had taken part in municipal proceedings must be aware how striking was the difference between the proceedings which were private and those in which Members spoke to the gallery, and during which really little business was done. He thought it was better to leave the arrangement of this matter to the County Council which, he believed, was sufficiently alive to the wishes of the electorate in London to decide whether or not it was desirable in the interests of education in London that their proceedings should be conducted in public. He did not wish to make any distinction between the London County Council and the other County Councils in regard to the manner in which they should conduct their business. He was prepared to leave the matter to the good sense of the London County Council, and to the public opinion of the people of London.

MR. CAUSTON (Southwark, W.) said that as a London Member, he thought that the proceedings should be conducted in public. If Parliament thought it was right that the proceedings should be carried on in public, Parliament should say so; and he considered it would have been a great deal better had Parliament said so in the Bill of last year.

MR. CROOKS (Woolwich) said he wished to add his voice to the appeal for publicity. The hon. Baronet, in introducing the Bill to the House, said that there was the great lack of public interest in education in London. Was he going to make that interest still less by allowing the education authority to carry on its business behind closed doors? If there was any business which would be better discussed in private, that would not be prevented by accepting the Amendment. The private business could be carried on by means of sub-committees. The more the people of London and the world knew of this great business of education the better. As an educational power there was nothing in the world like the public Press. It kept administration square. Their desire was for the betterment of education. Of course there were Members who thought that this Bill was for the worsement of education; but whether it was for the better or the worse they could only know if publicity was given to the proceedings of the education authority.

MR. HERBERT SAMUEL (Yorkshire, Cleveland) said that the hon. Baronet asked why a distinction should be made in this Bill, compared with that of last year, and why the London County Council should not be left free to make its own arrangements in this matter. The reply was obvious, that experience had shown that Parliament made a mistake last year, because several County Councils had conducted their business in private. The hon. Baronet said that that was the affair of the County Councils; he maintained that it was not the affair of the County Councils, but the affair of the public. The London School Board conducted their proceedings in public, and why should not the new authority do so also? The present County Council might be trustworthy, but that was even doubtful, because reporters were not admitted to the meetings of the Technical Education Committee. He thought that Parliament ought to express its mind clearly on this matter.

SIR MICHAEL FOSTER said that his natural tendency would be to support the hon. Baronet in refusing this Amendment, because his own experience had proved to him that if business had to be done the public must be excluded, as far as possible, from a share in the proceedings. They were all human, and there was an invariable tendency to talk to the gallery, so that the more the public were admitted to proceedings of this nature the less chance was there for the real conduct of business. In spite of that, however, he distinctly recognised that the Education Committee was an agent for London, and for this reason there might be an instruction of the House on this occasion that it should conduct its official business in public. He thought that there was a difficulty about the word "ordinary." If the Amendment of the hon. Member for Camberwell provided the safeguard that the meetings of the Committee should be public only for the general advantage of the children, then he would be disposed to support him.

MR. WALTER LONG said he ventured very respectfully to appeal to the House to come to a decision on this question now. Surely the issue before the House was clear and distinct. His hon. friend who had just spoken had some doubt as to the advisability of passing the Amendment, and the hon. Member for Woolwich, on the other hand, attached undue importance to the publicity of debate when he said that without publicity a good deal of the work done would not be so valuable. He was sure that a great deal of the work which the hon. Member had done, and by no means the least useful, had been work done without the presence of reporters. The London County Council was supreme on all matters of education, and could direct that in all matters of education there should be publicity. They were constantly told—"Why don't you trust the local bodies?" But when they proposed to trust them in this matter it was argued that they should be cribbed, cabined, and confined. Surely the greatest municipality in the world should have the right to say that their proceedings at certain times should be in private.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON said that there was no intention of hon. Members on that side of the House to delay business, but they regarded this as one of the most important Amendments that could be discussed that evening. He thought that the hon. Baronet in charge of the Bill had really misunderstood the proposal of the hon. Member for Camberwell. None of them wished that all business should be done in public. What they desired was that when the education authority arrived at a conclusion on any question an opportunity should be given to the ordinary citizens of London to know what had been done. In order to meet a point which had been made on the other side he suggested a verbal alteration in the Amendment by which it would read that the Committee should carry out its ordinary meetings in public. That would put it in the same position as the School Board, whose business was carried on in public. Interest in education in London had not been so great as many of them wished, and this Bill would entirely destroy what interest there was if there was not some opportunity of keeping educational matters before the public.

MR. HERBERT ROBERTS (Denbighshire, W.) said that from personal experience he could testify that every meeting in Wales of the education authority had been for the past twelve years conducted in public in the presence of reporters, and no difficulties whatever had arisen. He failed to see what possible inconvenience could arise from accepting his hon. friend's Amendment. Past experience was in favour of it, and any inconvenience likely to arise could easily be obviated by going into Committee or requesting the reporters not to report the proceedings.

LORD EDMUND FITZMAURICE (Wiltshire, Cricklade) agreed that occasionally matters were required to be dealt with in a confidential manner. At the same time he thought some County Councils might be inclined to go rather further in the direction of excluding reporters than was desirable. Under the Act of 1902, all the business except financial business might be delegated to the Committee by the County Council. The business which the County Council did delegate came back as a matter of course to the County Council itself in full session for discussion when the reporters were present. He thought the reporters ought to be present as a matter of right in regard to matters where there was a complete delegation, but in regard to a large and important class of business not delegated to the Committee it should be reserved for the final decision of the Council. If the Government thought that this was a matter which could not be left to the decision of the London County Council itself, the Amendment should be framed so as to bear in mind the distinction in Section 17 between the business delegated and that which was not delegated.

*MR. HUMPHRYS OWEN (Montgomeryshire) said that some time ago they heard complaints that they talked a good deal about politics but very little about education. This was purely an educational matter, and it should not be made a question of Party politics. It was simply a matter of how the new bodies should carry on their business. Allusion had been made to the way the Welsh education authorities conducted their business. Quite apart from politics, he thought the members of any Welsh educational body would say that the present system under which the reporters were freely allowed to be present on the understanding that, when private business was brought on, they would cease to report, had worked to the complete satisfaction of those bodies, and there had never been a difficulty of any kind. This was a question of ordinary human nature, and he did not see why a system which worked well in Wales should not work in the Metropolis. There was always a certain amount of jealousy between the lay and the academic elements, and the latter, he thought, was sometimes a little too eager to get to business, and apt to neglect thorough discussion of all the aspects of a question. It was very important for the progress of education that details should be discussed and appreciated, not only by the experts, but also by the rank and file of the elected bodies, and there was no better means of securing that than it being known that the speeches would be reported, and that public attention would be called to the business through the Press. He hoped that even now the Secretary to the Board of Education would accept the very reasonable Amendment moved by his hon. friend.

MR. BRYCE asked the two representatives of the Government who were present whether, after what had been said by the noble Lord the Member for Wiltshire, they could not see their way to allow some modification of the Clause.

MR. WALTER LONG said he was bound to say that nothing which had fallen from the noble Lord and other hon. Members had led them to change their mind. The London County Council could be very well trusted to deal with this matter. [An HON. MEMBER: The Education Committees deal with it.] But the London County Council absolutely controlled the work of the Committees, and if the Council chose to lay down that the proceedings of the Education Committees should be held in public it was perfectly competent for it to do so. They had not done so in regard to the Technical Education Board. The hon. Member for North Camberwell had frequently said that it was because the London County Council had not adopted this course that he had felt it necessary to move this Amendment.

MR. CAUSTON: Can we take it that the London County Council have that power?

MR. WALTER LONG: Certainly, for they have absolute control over the proceedings of the Technical Education Board at present, and they would exercise the same power over the Education Committees. The proposal they were asked to accept was one which would involve enormous difficulties, because it invited the House to say there should be no distinction between the duties performed by the London County Council and the Committees. He thought this was a matter which must be left to the discretion of the local education authority.

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 76; Noes, 156. (Division List, No. 171.)

AYES.

Abraham, William (*Rhondda*)
Allen, Charles P. (*Glouc., Stroud*
Barlow, John Emmott
Black, Alexander William
Bolton, Thomas Dolling
Broadhurst, Henry
Brown, George M. (*Edinburgh*)
Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
Burt Thomas
Buxton, Sydney Charles
Caldwell, James
Cameron, Robert
Causton, Richard Knight
Cawley, Frederick
Cremer, William Randal
Crooks, William
Davies, Alfred (*Carmarthen*)
Davies, M. Vaughan (*Cardigan*
Douglas, Charles M. (*Lanark*)
Evans, Samuel T. (*Glamorgan*)
Fenwick, Charles
Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmund
Foster, Sir Michl. (*Lond. Univ*
Foster, Sir Walter (*Derby Co.*)
Fuller, J. M. F.
Furness, Sir Christopher
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Griffith, Ellis J.
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Charles Seale-
Hobhouse, C. E. H. (*Bristl, E*
Hope, John Deans (*Fife, West*)
Humphreys-Owen, Arthur C.
Hutchinson, Dr. Charles Fredk.
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jones, David Brynmor (*Swansea*
Jones, William (*Carnarvonsh*
Langley, Batty
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (*Cornwall*)
Leigh, Sir Joseph
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, David
M'Arthur, William (*Cornwall*)
Mansfield, Horace Rendall
Markham, Arthur Basil
Morgan, J. Lloyd (*Carmarthen*)
Newnes, Sir George
Norman, Henry
Partington, Oswald
Perks, Robert William
Philipps, John Wynford
Plummer, Walter R.
Priestley, Arthur
Reckitt, Harold James
Rickett, J. Compton
Roberts, John Bryn (*Eifion*)
Roberts, John H. (*Denbighs.*)
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Charles Edw. (*Stafford*)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Soares, Ernest J.
Taylor, Theodore C. (*Radcliffe*)
Thomas, David Alfred (*Merthyr*
Thomson, F. W. (*York, W.R.*
Walton, Joseph (*Barnsley*)
Weir; James Galloway
White, George (*Norfolk*)
Whitley, J. H. (*Halifax*)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Williams, Osmond (*Merioneth*)
Wilson, F.W. (*Norfolk, Mid*)
Wilson, H. J. (*York, W. R.*)
Wilson, John (*Durham, Mid*)
Woodhouse, Sir J T. (*Huddersf'd*
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Dr. Macnamara and Mr. Herbert Samuel.

NOES.

Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Arrol, Sir William
Atkinson, Right Hon. John
Aubrey-Fletcher, Rt Hon. Sir H
Bagot, Capt. Josceline Fitzroy
Bailey, James (*Walworth*)
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J. (*Man'r*
Balfour, Capt. C. B. (*Hornsey*
Balfour, Rt. Hn. G. W. (*Leeds*
Balfour, Kenneth R. (*Christch.*
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.
Bigwood, James
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Brassey, Albert
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Bull, William James
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Butcher, John George
Campbell, J. H. M (*Dublin Univ.*
Cautley, Henry Strother
Cavendish, V C W (*Derbysh.*)
Cayzer, Sir Charles William
Chapman, Edward
Charrington, Spencer
Cochrane, Hon. T. H. A. E.
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Cook, Sir Frederick Lucas
Cox, Irwin Edward Bainbridge
Cross, Alexander (*Glasgow*)
Cross, Herb. Shepherd (*Bolton*)
Crossley, Rt. Hon. Sir Savile
Cubitt, Hon. Henry
Dalkeith, Earl of
Denny, Colonel
Dewar, Sir T. R. (*Tr. Haml'ts*
Dimsdale, Rt. Hn. Sir Joseph C.
Doughty, George
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers

Doxford, Sir William Theodore
Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas
Faber, George Denison (*York*)
Fardell, Sir T. George
Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Firbank, Sir Joseph Thomas
FitzGerald, Sir Robt. Penrose-
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Flower, Ernest
Forster, Henry William
Fyler, John Arthur
Godson, Sir Augustus Fredk.
Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Greene, Sir E W (*B'ry S Edm'nds*
Grenfell, William Henry
Groves, James Grimble
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Hall, Edward Marshall
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Haslam, Sir Alfred S.
Heath, James (*Staffords. N. W.*
Helder, Augustus
Hogg, Lindsay
Houston, Robert Paterson
Howard, Jno (*Kent, Faver'hm*
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Jameson, Major J. Eustace
Jessel, Captain Herbert Merton
Kenyon, Hon. G. T. (*Denbigh*
Kenyon-Slaney, Col. W. (*Salop*
Kerr, John
Keswick, William
Knowles, Lees
Law, Andrew Bonar (*Glasgow*)
Lawrence, Wm. F. (*Liverpool*
Lawson, John Grant (*Yorks, NR*
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leveson-Gower, Frederick N. S
Llewellyn, Evan Henry
Lockwood, Lieut.-Col. A. R.
Long, Rt. Hn. W. (*Bristol, S.*
Lowther, C. (*Cumb. Eskdale*)
Lundon, W.
Macdona, John Cumming
Maconochie, A. W.
M'Arthur, Charles (*Liverpool*)
M'Killop, Jas. (*Stirlingshire*)
Majendie, James A. H.
Meysey-Thompson, Sir H. M.
Milvain, Thomas
Montagu, Hon. J. Scott (*Hants.*)
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
Morgan, D. J. (*Walthamstow*)
Mount, William Arthur
Mowbray, Sir Robert Gray C.
Murray, Rt. Hn A Graham (*Bute*
Murray, Chas. J. (*Coventry*)
Myers, William Henry
Nolan, Col. John P. (*Galway, N.*
O'Brien, P. J. (*Tipperary, N.*)
Orr-Ewing, Charles Lindsay
Palmer, Walter (*Salisbury*)
Pease, H. Pike (*Darlington*)
Percy, Earl
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Pretyman, Ernest George
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Randles, John S.
Ratcliff, R. F.
Redmond, William (*Clare*)
Reid, James (*Greenock*)
Remnant, James Farquharson
Renshaw, Sir Charles Bine
Renwick, George
Ridley, S. F. (*Bethnal Green*)
Roberts, Samuel (*Sheffield*)
Robertson, Herbert (*Hackney*)
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford-
Sadler, Col. Samuel Alexander
Samuel, Harry S. (*Limehouse*)
Seely, Chas. Hilton (*Lincoln*)
Sinclair, Louis (*Romford*)
Skewes-Cox, Thomas
Smith, H C. (*North'mb. Tyneside*
Smith, Hn. W. F. D. (*Strand*)
Stanley, Hon. A. (*Ormskirk*)
Stanley, Lord (*Lancs.*)
Stewart, Sir Mark J. M'Taggart
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Tollemache, Henry James
Tomlinson, Sir Wm. Edw. M.
Tritton, Charles Ernest
Valentia, Viscount
Vincent, Sir Edgar (*Exeter*)
Walrond, Rt. Hn. Sir William H
Warde, Colonel C. E.
Webb, Col. William George
Welby, Lt-Col A. C. E. (*Taunton*
Welby, Sir Chas. G. E. (*Notts*)
Whiteley, H. (*Ashton und. Lyne*
Willoughby de Eresby, Lord
Willox, Sir John Archibald
Wilson, A. Stanley (*York, E. R.*
Worsley-Taylor, Henry Wilson
Wylie, Alexander
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Young, Samuel

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Anstruther and Mr. Fellowes

MR. YOXALL, in moving the Amendment standing in his name, said that at the present time a ratepayer had the right to inspect documents such as the minutes and accounts of the School Board for London, and what he was asking for now was something less than that. He did not ask for an inspection of accounts, but the local Education Committee would have minutes and they had no guarantee that the proceedings would be conducted in public. Therefore, they had an additional right to ask that the minutes should be open to the inspection of any ratepayer. There were plenty of arguments which might be used, but he would only cite one particular case which went to show the danger of anything like privacy. The minutes would doubtless contain copies of reports by Government inspectors of denominational schools. It was now the practice to place upon the doors of denominational schools a copy of the inspectors' report, but in this Bill the Government did not insist upon this practice, and therefore that safeguard had passed out of existence. If something of the same kind was not provided for in the future it would give rise to suspicion and the friction which already existed upon this subject would be increased instead of being diminished. For the sake of peace, educational efficiency, public right, conistency in local government, and other reasons he begged to move his Amendment.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 4, line 6, at end, to insert the words ' (10) The minutes of proceedings of the Education Committee of the local education authority shall be open to inspection by any ratepayer in London.' "—(*Mr. Yoxall.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted in the Bill."

MR. WALTER LONG said the real objection to this proposal was that it sought to make a distinction between the Education Committee of the London County Council and any other committee of any other local governing body in the country. The section of the Act of 1870 which conferred this right of inspection was repealed in the Act of last year because it was felt that, in the changed circumstances, it had become altogether impracticable. If that was true of the ordinary County Councils in the provinces how much more must it be true of the London County Council, with its vast number of ratepayers. In his opinion the hon. Member in moving the Amendment had done so from a mistaken point of view. He had said it was desirable that these bodies should be open to public criticism. No doubt; but surely they were responsible bodies and were not likely to be influenced in their work because the minutes were open to inspection. He hoped the House would not spend too much time in discussing a matter which in his opinion was only of minor importance, but would proceed to deal with the more important questions still to be reached.

DR. MACNAMARA denied that this was a minor consideration, and held that the privilege was one of the most valuable the public had enjoyed since 1870.

MR. WALTER LONG: I did not say it was a minor matter. I said it was minor compared with some of the questions remaining to be dealt with.

DR. MACNAMARA repeated that it was a most important question, and reminded the right hon. Gentleman that the section in the Act of 1870 to which he had referred was repealed in the schedule of the Act of 1902, which was closured without a single word of discussion. If they had had the opportunity they would have most strenuously opposed its repeal, and it was adding insult to injury to tell them now that they must not discuss this Amendment because the question was settled last year. The Government were robbing the people of London of a priceless advantage they had enjoyed for thirty years, and he regarded this proposition as one of the most scandalous features of the educational policy of the Government. "The blaze of publicity," and "the full light of day," which were to be the accompaniments of educational administration disappeared under the Act of 1902.

MR. WALTER LONG: The hon. Gentleman seems to take this matter very much to heart.

DR. MACNAMARA said he did.

MR. WALTER LONG said he did not object to that. What he did object to was the proposal to discriminate between the London County Council and the rest of the country.

DR. MACNAMARA said his point was that the right of inspection was a great public privilege. It must be remembered that £4,000,000 of public money was now involved year by year.

MR. SAMUEL EVANS said every ratepayer in the country ought to have the right of inspecting the minutes of proceedings of the local education authority and of its Committee in the same way that shareholders had a right to make copies of minutes of their companies. From 1870 onwards that elementary right had been conceded.

MR. WALTER LONG said the ratepayers had the right to inspect the minutes of the London County Council.

MR. SAMUEL EVANS said the business would be transacted by the Education Committee. What would be the use of having a right to inspect the minutes of the Council if they did not bear on the matter? This elementary right which had never been abused was now to be taken away, and he had heard no argument in support of that course. He hoped the House would give more time to the discussion of this matter. They ought not to shirk their responsibilities merely in order that hon. Members might go to their beds.

MR. BULL (Hammersmith) pointed out that every Committee of the London County Council reported to the Council all the details of its work, and, as the meetings of the Council were public, it seemed to him that there was sufficient publicity.

SIR JAMES WOODHOUSE (Huddersfield) said the law with regard to any municipal corporation was that any ratepayer might inspect the minutes, not only of the Council, but also of its committees. In the case of the Manchester Corporation, the Lord Chief Justice had decided that the ratepayers were entitled to see, not merely the resolutions of the Council, but the acts and proceedings of the Committees of the Council.

MR. WALTER LONG: If the hon. Gentleman has given a correct interpretation of the law, perhaps he will tell us what is the object of this Amendment.

SIR JAMES WOODHOUSE said the Amendment at least affirmed the principle contained in the Act of 1870. Surely there could be no objection to its acceptance.

SIR JOHN GORST said, if it was the law that the ratepayers had the right of inspection, that was a very good reason for the repeal of the section in the Act of 1870 by the Act of last year, because it became unnecessary. In the case of School Boards, it was necessary that ratepayers should have a statutory right to inspect the minutes, but that provision was no longer necessary when the minutes became the minutes of a committee of a municipal authority.

SIR JAMES WOODHOUSE said the London County Council was not included in the Municipal Corporations Act.

SIR JOHN GORST said the proceedings of the Committees of the London County Council were reported to the Council and were now open to the public under the London County Council Act. The Amendment was as unnecessary as the clause which was repealed in the Act of last year.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE said they ought to know whether the ratepayers of London had this power or not. The Amendment was proposed on the assumption that they had not that power. The President of the Local Government Board had also replied on that assumption, and defended the repeal of the section on principle. He said it was a wrong thing and that the power should not be given. The Government abolished the power of inspection last year, but now they were told that the ratepayers still had that power. It was a great pity that none of the law officers of the Crown were present. They were all agreed this power was desirable, and as it was clear there was a doubt whether there was the power, what possible harm could the Amendment do? Let the hon. Gentleman in charge of the Bill agree to the inclusion of words ensuring to ratepayers the right to inspect the minutes. That would save the time of the House. Such a power of the ratepayers ought not to be abolished unless it could be shown that it had been abused. A great deal of petty jobbery went on in different parts of the country in connection with contracts, and so forth, and the mere fact that the ratepayers possessed the right to inspect the minute-books was a check upon such practices. Reference had been made to the practice of the Committees of the London County Council in publishing a report every week. But this Committee would not be on the same basis at all. The disposition throughout the country was to delegate powers to the Education Committee, and practically to convert it into a separate and independent body. It would not report from week to week. The decisions of an ordinary Committee had to be adopted by the County Council before they had any effect, but to the Education Committee no end of things would be delegated absolutely, and it was in the small matters that possibilities of jobbery arose. In the interests of municipal purity it was of the greatest importance that every conceivable check should be placed upon possibilities of that character. If the public were deprived of the right of examining documents and seeing what was going on, a blow would be struck against the dignity and usefulness of public institutions, and against the confidence which the public at present reposed in them.

MR. WALTER LONG said he had already pointed out that it was very undesirable that there should be any distinction made between the Education Committee of the London County Council and those of any of the other Councils. In the Local Government Act the Municipal Corporations Act was applied to the London County Council.

SIR JAMES WOODHOUSE: Where in the provisions is the right of the ratepayers applied?

MR. WALTER LONG said he was informed that under Section 233 of the Municipal Corporations Act the minutes of proceedings of a Council were open to the inspection of the burgesses. That section was applied to the County Councils by Section 75 of the Local Government Act, 1888. That was the information given to him, and he was confident it was correct. If the hon. Member for Huddersfield was correct the Amendment was unnecessary; if he was incorrect they reverted to the position to which the Government adhered—viz., that there should be no distinction between this Committee and the Committee of any other local authority.

MR. BRYCE said the House were in a most unsatisfactory position, the President of the Local Government Board having practically said that he did not know whether the minutes of the Committee of the London County Council would be open to inspection or not. Assuming the Committee not to be subject to the Municipal Corporations Act the minutes would not be open to inspection. Since the passing of the Act of 1870 every ratepayer had had a right to inspect the minutes, and no harm had ensued, but that right was now to be taken away.

MR. WALTER LONG said that that was not the case. The right of inspection was conferred by Section 75 of the Local Government Act and Section 233 of the Municipal Corporations Act. The section which the House was discussing had nothing to do with either, and the right hon. Gentleman was wrong in thinking that the Government were seeking to alter the law.

MR. BRYCE contended that the House ought to be told positively whether or not the ratepayers would have the right of inspecting the minutes of the Committee which would now correspond to the School Board. That right had been enjoyed hitherto; why then should it now be taken away?

MR. WHITLEY thought the matter ought to be cleared up. The Government, although they were not seeking to alter the law, were seeking to alter the rights of the ratepayers.

MR. WALTER LONG: No.

MR. WHITLEY asked whether at present the ratepayers had not a right to inspect the minute-books of the education authority.

MR. WALTER LONG: Only of the School Board.

MR. WHITLEY said that that being so by this Bill the Government were *ipso facto* depriving the ratepayers of that right. How then could the right hon. Gentleman say that the Government were not proposing any alteration of the existing state of things? As the Government seemed not to know what the law really was he suggested that they should insert this Amendment, and, if it were found to be unnecessary, remove the superfluous clause in another place.

MR. SAMUEL EVANS was understood to read a section of the Act of 1888 by which it was provided that Committees need not report their proceedings to the Council. That being so, the provisions of the section to which reference had been made would not give the right asked for in the Amendment.

MR. LOUGH asked why the people of London should be deprived of a right they had hitherto enjoyed? The argument was that no exception should be made to the general law. But London was just a case in which exceptions should be made, and departures from the general law were constantly being made in connection with the Metropolis. He suggested that the words should be now inserted, and if they were found to be surplusage they could be struck out in another place.

MR. WALTER LONG said he could not agree to put in these words, holding the views which he had expressed, but he recognised fully that there was some element of doubt as to what the law exactly was. He was quite prepared to undertake on behalf of the Government that if there was any doubt which would leave this Committee, in consequence of this Amendment, in a position different from that occupied by the Committee of any other local authority—[Cries of "No, no," from the Opposition, and "We want the rights we now have in London."] Those rights applied solely to education accounts, and if that section were incorporated in this Bill it would alter the law as to the inspection of the whole of the accounts of the County Council. That was not what hon. Members wanted. It was said that the Lord Chief Justice had decided that the law would render the accounts open to inspection. If that was the case, and if this section affected that right, he would undertake on behalf of the Government to propose an Amendment in another place which would remove that difficulty.

MR. BRYCE asked whether the right hon. Gentleman's undertaking would go the length that, if it should be found that the right of inspecting minutes of Committees was possessed in the case of municipal boroughs, he would assimilate the law to that relating to municipal boroughs.

MR. WALTER LONG: Certainly.

MR. WILLIAM JONES (Carnarvonshire, Arfon) said the following had beeen placed in his hands—

"As to the minutes of the Council, the inspection has been held to extend to the minutes of Committees which have been submitted to the Council for approval, whether approved or not."

The question was, therefore, whether the minutes of the education Committee under this Bill would be submitted to the County Council; if so, they would come under the provision, and the public would have a right to inspect them.

DR. MACNAMARA asked whether the right hon. Gentleman undertook that the present right of the ratepayers of access to the minutes and accounts of the School Board would be perpetuated.

MR. WALTER LONG thought that was rather a difficult question to answer. If it was perpetuated as it stood, it would cover other ground altogether. He thought the ground was very well covered by the point of the hon. Member for the Arfon division. If there was any limitation imposed by Section 82 upon the rights conferred by Sections 75 and 233 of the Municipal Corporations Act, the Government would take care that that limitation was removed.

MR. YOXALL asked leave to withdraw the Amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

*MR. MANSFIELD said the idea of the Amendment he desired to move was that there should not be a fixity of tenure with regard to the managers of schools. There was no provision in the parent act in any way fixing the term for which managers were appointed. That managers should be periodically re-elected was very important, as long terms of office were not conducive to efficiency. He begged to move.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 4, line 6, at end, to add the words '(10) The managers of all public elementary schools shall not be elected for a longer period than three years, at the end of which period they shall be eligible for re-election.'"—(*Mr. Mansfield.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted in the Bill."

*SIR WILLIAM ANSON said the hon. member had called attention to an undoubted defect in the parent Act, and he was prepared to accept the Amendment if the word "appointed" was substituted for "elected".

MR. MANSFIELD said he was quite prepared to make the alteration.

Proposed Amendment amended by leaving out the word "elected" in line 2, and inserting the word "appointed."—(*Sir William Anson.*)

Question put, and agreed to.

Mr. MANSFIELD said the Amendment which he now desired to move proposed to give power to the local education authority to close any public elementary school which in their opinion on the grounds of economy or the inefficiency of the teaching or the premises was unnecessary. He thought it was desirable that this power should be given, even though it might not be often used. It certainly would tend towards efficiency, and help to raise the non-provided schools to a higher standard. Many schools required a great deal of improvement; and that improvement would be carried out if the local authority had power to close such schools. He had no fear that the local authority would use its power in an arbitrary manner. It had been pointed out again and again in the course of the discussions that the London County Council was very favourable to voluntary schools; and if they had this power it would enable them to improve the standard of these schools. A school would not be closed where it could be avoided, because another school would have to be built. Therefore, there was no danger of the power being abused. In the interests of efficiency and economy, he asked leave to move his Amendment, which he hoped the Government would accept.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"After the words last inserted to insert the words '(11) The local education authority shall have power to close any public elementary school which in their opinion is unnecessary on the grounds of economy, or the inefficiency of the teaching or of the premises.'"—(*Mr. Mansfield.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted in the Bill."

*Sir WILLIAM ANSON said he believed that the Amendment was unnecessary. The schools would be bound to carry out the directions of the local education authority, and maintain a certain standard of efficiency; and if they failed in that they would lose their right to be maintained. Further, the local education authority and the Board of Education could determine whether a school was or was not necessary; and there was ample security not only in the Act of 1870, but in the Act of last year that the local authority need not maintain any school which was not up to the proper standard.

Question put, and negatived.

Mr. LOUGH said the Amendment which he was about to move provided that no teacher should be required, as a condition of being appointed or continuing a teacher in any school or college aided or maintained by the local education authority, to belong to any particular religious denomination, or to attend or abstain from attending any place of religious worship or religious observance or Sunday school. He thought such a provision was more required in London than in any other part of the country. The system of imposing tests on teachers was perhaps most objectionable of all the provisions in the Act of last year. All teachers in elementary schools, whether voluntary or provided, would now be civil servants; and it was very repugnant to the general feeling of the community that any religious test should be imposed upon them. There was, of course, no objection to a test as to the ability of a teacher to discharge his duties; but in London especially it was very obnoxious to the general feeling that any test of a religious character should be applied. A very strong feeling existed regarding the matter; and he hoped the Government would be able to remove it.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"After the words last inserted, to insert the words '(11) No teacher shall be required as a condition of being appointed or continuing a teacher in any school or college aided or maintained by the local education authority to belong to any particular religious denomination, or to attend or abstain from attending any place of religious worship, or religious observance, or Sunday school."—(*Mr. Lough.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted in the Bill."

* Sir WILLIAM ANSON said he was not prepared to alter the law as it now stood. The speech of the hon. Member suggested some misconception on the

matter. There was at present only one sort of teacher who in certain circumstances was subjected to any kind of test, and that was the head teacher of a school the trust deed of which required that the teachers should be members of a particular Church. The House decided that where there was such a trust deed the deed should not be interfered with, so far as the head teacher was concerned. The Act of last year, however, left it open to the managers to appoint the other teachers from persons of any denomination. The Government could not go further than that. The manager who wanted a teacher of a particular sort could not be prevented from ascertaining in one way or another which candidate was most likely to give the teaching required. If the teacher was considered unsuitable on educational grounds the local education authority could, under last year's Act, refuse to ratify the appointment, so that security was taken for the teacher's efficiency. With regard to the proposal that the teacher should not be required to attend any place of religious worship or observance, he would remind the House that last autumn they discussed for some time the question whether they should put into the Bill provisions which would make it impossible for the teacher to do any work or enter into obligation outside his teaching duties. The House was then satisfied that provisions of that nature should be inserted in the Code. The undertaking he gave to the House was carried out, and there was now a provision in the Code stating that every engagement of a teacher must contain the following clause—

> "A teacher shall not be required to perform or abstain from performing any duty outside the ordinary school hours or unconnected with the ordinary work of the school."

Therefore a teacher could be under no obligation to his managers to attend a place of religious observance or a Sunday school.

Mr. BRYCE said he did not at all agree with the view presented by the hon. Baronet on this question. The hon. Baronet put it as if under the Act of last year all teacherships were thrown open, and no test could be applied except in the case of a trust deed requiring the head teacher to be a member of a particular religious denomination. But what the Act of last year really said was that in non-provided schools assistant teachers and pupil teachers might be appointed, if it were thought fit, without reference to their religious denomination. That left all teachers subject to tests at the option of the managers. The only effective way to deal with tests was to adopt the plan employed in the Act of 1871, which forbade any tests in the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge. This was a very great grievance. It was a monstrous proposition, and inconsistent with the free institutions under which they claimed to live, that these sectarian tests should be imposed on a body of public servants. A large number of managers of denominational schools were pledged to support and maintain sectarianism; and, therefore, they would feel bound to impose sectarian tests. The only dispensation given was the paltry provision by which assistant teachers and pupil teachers might be relieved from such a restriction. To his mind, so far from this being a small grievance, it was a small exemption, all the rest being grievances. Nothing would satisfy those who strongly objected to the provisions of the Act of last year except the throwing open of all teacherships without their being subject to any religious test whatever. Previously, the voluntary schools were supported, to some extent at least, by members of a particular religious denomination; but now they were all public schools, and the teachers were just as much public servants as the members of any other branch of the public service. Under those circumstances. it was monstrous that a sectarian test should be imposed on a large body of public servants. His hon. friend did well in moving his Amendment, and he hoped he had succeeded in explaining to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Education the ground and nature of the grievance.

Mr. GEORGE WHITE (Norfolk, N.W.) said he thought the House would be surprised at the manner in which the Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Education had dealt with the Amendment. As the Bill only applied to

London, the Amendment raised a smaller question than that connected with the Bill of last year; but the hon. Baronet must be aware that no part of the Act of last year was more resented throughout the country that the imposition of tests on teachers. He was, therefore, very much surprised that the Government should propose to perpetuate so great an injustice which, to the credit of hon. Gentlemen opposite, was not defended by them. Formerly, the voluntary schools were supported to the extent of one-third by private subscriptions; but now they were maintained solely from public funds. He would ask the Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Education to justify a position which precluded a head teacher from being appointed unless he were a member of the Church of England. That was practically the position. There might be cases in which broad-minded clergymen would appoint teachers who were not members of the Church of England; but he was quite sure that there would not be very many under the permissive clause proposed in the Bill. He knew of instances where Nonconformist teachers in such schools were called upon to conform to the doctrines of the Church of England or to quit. He knew of two such cases already. Only a day or two ago there was an advertisement in *The Schoolmaster* which clearly showed that even the provision of the Act of last year was not being complied with. Teachers were advertised for who were expected to discharge extraneous duties, such as superintending Sunday schools, keeping order in church, and matters of that kind. He protested against such an injustice being perpetuated. Nothing caused more resentment and more opposition to the Act of last year than the imposition of tests on teachers; and that it should be carried into the Metropolis showed a great want of foresight and prudence on the part of the Government. He could assure the hon. Gentleman that he was bringing into London a condition of things which he would be sorry for before many months were over. He would ask whether any hon. Gentleman could justify the position that public servants paid entirely out of public funds should be prevented from reaching the highest point in their profession, and, in many cases, from entering the profession at all, because they belonged to a certain Church. This was a principle that existed in the country generations ago, but it had remained for the present Government to perpetuate it in this new Act. It was a principle which he was sure no fair-minded man would get up to defend.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE said he agreed with the hon. Member for North-West Norfolk in regard to the gravity of the question in the public mind. It had deeply stirred hundreds of thousands, he might say millions, of people in the country. He did not think the Parliamentary Secretary had treated it with sufficient seriousness. He would give a concrete case which, he thought, was only one out of thousands that could be quoted in different parts of the country. Take a parish school in which ninety in 100 were Nonconformists. Probably the other ten might be the children of parents who were members of the Church of England. In that school the headmaster must be a communicant of the Church of the minority in the parish. It was true that the County Council could make Nonconformists pupil teachers, but when they went beyond the stage of pupil teachers the largest promotion they could receive was to the position of assistant teachers. They knew perfectly well that they could not be head teachers in their own parish school. That was a monstrous system. It was imposing a disqualification on good and loyal citizens. Practically all the farmers in the parish were Nonconformists.

MR. WHITMORE said this was a London Bill.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE said there were many cases in London of a similar character. He was discussing the principle. If hon. Members opposite gave up the case with regard to the country he would have no more to say.

MR. WHITMORE said he thought the hon. Member's argument was addressed to the case of this particular Bill. There were no farmers in London and the provisions of this clause could only apply to the voluntary schools in London. He did not think the objections the hon. Member was raising to the principle of the Act of last year were applicable to this Bill.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE said he thought the hon. Member was wrong as to there being no farmers in London; at any rate the Agricultural Rating Act applied to London. This was a Bill to adapt and extend the Act of last year to London. The principle was in the Bill of last year and if the hon. Member for Chelsea regretted and apologised for supporting that Bill he was prepared to give that up. There were denominational schools in London to which children went very often, not so much because their parents were communicants of that particular Church but because there was no other school convenient. There were many districts in London where children of a tender age must go to the voluntary school because it was the only one within reasonable reach. Why should a privilege which was given to the children of one class of ratepayers be denied to the children of another class? It was a perfectly monstrous principle which was only applied to this branch of the Civil Service. The whole of the salaries, speaking roughly, in the voluntary schools of this country, amounted to £3,600,000. These salaries were paid by the State. Why should the State that employed these teachers draw a distinction between one man and another simply on account of creed? He was not surprised that there were millions of people who resented it as an insult to their religious faith. Did the hon. Gentleman approve of this sort of advertisement?—

> "Wanted, mistress, trained and certificated, must be confirmed, and communicant; require to attend Sunday school alternate Sundays, and every Sunday keep order among children in the church. Salary to be arranged in consultation with the County authorities."

That salary would be paid by the County authorities out of the rates and money received from the Imperial Exchequer for the purpose of assisting a sectarian school, and for the purpose of keeping order in the church of one denomination. The test was that no one had a right to apply except a communicant in a particular Church. This Amendment would make it clear that the Legislature disapproved of that, and considered it grossly unfair. He would not say unfair merely to the teachers who were ruled out, but unfair to the school itself, because, in the appointment of teachers, there ought to be the widest range of selection. There were 1,200 voluntary school appointments in London, and the whole of these were confined to men and women of one sect, although everybody contributed to the Treasury out of which they were paid. It was wrong in principle, and unfair to the children and the teachers. He thought the House of Commons ought to express its disapproval of the action of the Government.

DR. MACNAMARA said this was a great question of public policy. There were in London 1,200 public servants in voluntary schools, every farthing of whose salaries was paid for out of rates and taxes. In the past they had been paid partly by private and charitable contributions, and that might be regarded as a good reason for superimposing on their other qualifications something in the nature of a religious test. Who was to settle the qualifications for those teachers? Would the hon. Member for Chelsea say that any private agency, religious or otherwise, had any right to superimpose any special qualification over and above that demanded by the authority which found the money? This thing could not be maintained. Of course the noble Lord the Member for Greenwich would at once turn round and ask—What are we to do for religious instruction? If religious instruction had to depend on religious tests imposed on public servants paid out of public funds, it was resting on a very rotten foundation. Teachers were only human, and nothing undermined their probity and independence like denominational tests. He should be the last man to say anything disparaging of them, but religious tests were a premium on hypocrisy. Those who desired the continuance of a particular form of religious instruction were ill serving their purpose when they imposed tests on public servants. He knew dozens of cases in which, in order to secure appointments in denominational schools, head teachers had changed their religion—as any human being would do who had considerable obligations resting on him. He did not put teachers on a higher platform than the public generally. Those who desired for their children the religious instruction of a particular denomination must find other means of giving it than through public servants on whom religious tests were imposed.

MR. SAMUEL EVANS said if the Government desired to make this Bill work smoothly it would be wise to have regard to the position which had been rendered perfectly plain by the proceedings in the country. Appeals had been made to the other side to get up and defend this monstrous proposal, but hon. Members could not do it. He would put the case from the point of view of expediency. Suppose a man who was a ratepayer in London applied for a position as head teacher in London, and he was informed that he could only get the appointment if he was a communicant of the Church of England and was willing to work in the Sunday school, but that otherwise he could not. That teacher might say, "If these positions are refused to me, I refuse to pay my rates." If the Government would abolish religious tests as they were now asked to do they would sweep away a great deal of the opposition to the Bill, and there would be a better prospect of its working smoothly.

MR. MOON (St. Pancras, N.) said hon. Members opposite had pressed for a reply to the question why head teacherships in voluntary schools should be reserved to those professing a particular creed. He thought they in return might be asked the question whether they did not think that some reasonable compensation should not be given to those who provided the fabrics.

Question put.

The House divided: Ayes, 88; Noes, 173. (Division List No. 172.)

AYES.

Abraham, William (*Rhondda*)
Allan Charles P. (*Glouc. Stroud*
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Beaumont, Wentworth, C. B.
Black, Alexander William
Bolton, Thomas Dolling
Broadhurst, Henry
Brown, George M. (*Edinburgh*
Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Caldwell, James
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H
Causton, Richard Knight
Cawley, Frederick
Cremer, William Randal
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, Alfred (*Carmarthen*)
Dewar, John A. (*Inverness-shire*
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Douglas, Charles M. (*Lanark*)
Duncan, J. Hastings
Edwards, Frank
Elibank, Master of
Emmott, Alfred
Evans, Saml. T. (*Glamorgan*)
Fenwick, Charles
Ferguson, R. C. Munro (*Leith*
Foster, Sir Michael (*Lond. Univ*
Fuller, J. M. F.
Furness, Sir Christopher
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Griffith, Ellis J.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Harmsworth, R. Leicester
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Charles Seale
Hobhouse, C. E. H. (*Bristol, E.*)
Humphreys-Owen, Arthur C.
Hutchinson, Dr. Charles Fredk.
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jones, Wm. (*Carnarvonshire*)
Lambert, George
Langley, Batty
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (*Cornwall*)
Leigh, Sir Joseph
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, David
Lough, Thomas
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
M'Laren, Sir Chas Benjamin
Mansfield, Horace Rendall
Markham, Arthur Basil
Morgan, J. Lloyd (*Carmarthen*)
Moulton, George Fletcher
Newnes, Sir George
Partington, Oswald
Philipps, John Wynford
Pirie, Duncan V.
Price, Robert John
Priestley, Arthur
Rea, Russell
Rickett, J. Compton
Roberts, John Bryn (*Eifion*)
Roberts, John H. (*Denbighs.*)
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rose, Charles Day
Runciman, Walter
Samuel, Herbert L. (*Cleveland*)
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Thomas (*Hawick, B.*)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair, John (*Forfarshire*)
Soares, Ernest J.
Stevenson, Francis S.
Taylor, Theodore C. (*Radcliffe*)
Tennant, Harold John
Thomas, Abel (*Carmarthen, E.*
Thomas, David Alfred (*Merthyr*
Tomkinson, James
Toulmin, George
Walton, Joseph (*Barnsley*)
White, George (*Norfolk*)
Whitley, J. H. (*Halifax*)
Wilson, F. W. (*Norfolk, Mid*)
Wilson, H. J. (*York, W. R.*)
Wilson, John (*Durham, Mid.*)
Woodhouse, Sir J T (*Huddersf'd*
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
Mr. Herbert Gladstone and
Mr. William M'Arthur.

NOES.

Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Arrol, Sir William
Atkinson, Right Hon. John
Aubrey-Fletcher, Rt. Hn. Sir H.
Bagot, Capt. Josceline FitzRoy
Bailey, James (*Walworth*)
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J. (*Man'r*
Balfour, Rt. Hn. G. W. (*Leeds*
Balfour, Kenneth R. (*Christch*
Banbury, Sir Frederick George

Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.
Bigwood, James
Bill, Charles
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bond, Edward
Bowles, Lt-Col. H. F. (*Middlesex*
Brassey, Albert
Bull, William James
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Butcher, John George
Campbell, J. H. M. (*Dublin Univ*
Cautley, Henry Strother
Cavendish, V. C. W. (*Derbyshire*
Cayzer, Sir Charles William
Cecil, Evelyn (*Aston Manor*)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (*Greenwich*)
Chamberlain, Rt Hon J (*Birm*
Chamberlain, Rt. Hn. J A (*Worc*
Chapman, Edward
Charrington, Spencer
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Clive, Captain Percy A.
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Collings, Right Hon. Jesse
Colomb, Sir John Chas. Ready
Colston, Chas. Edw H. Athole
Cox, Irwin Edwd. Bainbridge
Cross, Alexander (*Glasgow*)
Cross, H. Shepherd (*Bolton*)
Crossley, Rt. Hon. Sir Savile
Cust, Henry John C
Dalkeith, Earl of
Denny, Colonel
Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers
Doxford, Sir Wm. Theodore
Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas
Faber, George Denison (*York*)
Fergusson, Rt Hn. Sir J. (*Man'r*
Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
Flower, Ernest
Forster, Henry William
Foster, P. S. (*Warwick, S.W.*
Fyler, John Arthur
Galloway, William Johnson
Godson, Sir Augustus Fredk.
Gordon, Hn. J. E. (*Elgin & Nrn*
Gordon, Maj Evans (*T'r Haml'ts*
Gore, HnG. R. C. Ormsby- (*Salop*
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Greene, Sir E. W. (*Bury St. Ed.*
Greene, W. Raymond (*Cambs*
Grenfell, William Henry
Gretton, John
Groves, James Grimble
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Guthrie, Walter Murray
Hall, Edward Marshall
Hamilton, Rt Hn Ld. G. (*Midx*
Hardy, Laurence (*Kent, Ashf'd*
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Heath, James (*Staffords N. W.*)
Henderson, Sir Alexander
Hogg, Lindsay
Howard, Jn. (*Kent, Faver'h'm*
Jessel, Capt. Herbert Merton
Johnstone, Heywood
Kenyon, Hon. G. T. (*Denbigh*
Kenyon-Slaney, Col. W. (*Salop*
Kerr, John
Keswick, William
Kilbride, Denis
Knowles, Lees
Lambton, Hon. Fredk. Wm.
Law, Andrew Bonar (*Glasgow*
Lawrence, Wm. F. (*Liverpool*
Lawson, John Grant (*Yorks, N R*
Lees, Sir Elliott (*Birkenhead*)
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leveson-Gower, Frederick N. S
Llewellyn, Evan Henry
Lockwood, Lieut.-Col. A. R.
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Long, Col. Chas. W. (*Evesham*
Long, Rt Hn. Walter (*Bristol, S*)
Lowther, C. (*Cumb. Eskdale*)
Lucas, Col. Francis (*Lowestoft*
Lucas, Reginald J. (*Portsmouth*
Lyttelton, Hon. Alfred
Macdona, John Cumming
Maconochie, A. W.
M'Killop, James (*Stirlingshire*
Majendie, James A. H.
Massey-Mainwaring, Hn. W. F.
Meysey-Thompson, Sir H. M.
Milvain, Thomas
Montagu, G. (*Huntingdon*)
Montagu, Hon. J. Scott (*Hants.*)
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
Morgan, David J (*Walthamstow*
Morgan, Hn. F. (*Monm'thsh.*)
Morton, Arthur H. Aylmer
Mount, William Arthur
Murray, Rt Hn A. Graham (*Bute*
Murray, Charles J. (*Coventry*)
Myers, William Henry
Nicholson, William Graham
Nolan, Col. John P. (*Galway, N.*
Orr-Ewing, Charles Lindsay
Palmer, Walter (*Salisbury*)
Pease, Herbert Pike (*Darlingt'n*
Percy, Earl
Pilkington, Colonel Richard
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Pretyman, Ernest George
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Randles, John S.
Ratcliff, R. F.
Reid, James (*Greenock*)
Remnant, Jas. Farquharson
Renshaw, Sir Charles Bine
Renwick, George
Ridley, S. F. (*Bethnal Green*)
Roberts, Samuel (*Sheffield*)
Robertson, H. (*Hackney*)
Round, Rt. Hon. James
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford-
Sadler, Col. Samuel Alexander
Seely, Charles Hilton (*Lincoln*)
Sinclair, Louis (*Romford*)
Smith, Abel H. (*Hertford, East*
Smith, H C (*North'mb. Tyneside*
Smith, James Parker (*Lanarks.*)
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (*Strand*)
Stanley, Lord (*Lancs.*)
Stewart, Sir M. J. M'Taggart
Stirling-Maxwell, Sir Jn. M.
Talbot, Lord E. (*Chichester*)
Talbot, Rt Hn J. G (*Oxford Univ.*
Tomlinson, Sir Wm. Edw. M.
Valentia, Viscount
Walker, Col. William Hall
Walrond, Rt. Hn. Sir William H.
Warde, Colonel C. E.
Webb, Colonel William George
Welby, Lt-Col. A. C. E (*Taunton*
Welby, Sir Chas. G. E. (*Notts*)
Wharton, Rt. Hon. J. Lloyd
Whiteley, H (*Ashton und. Lyne*
Whitmore, Charles Algernon
Willoughby de Eresby, Lord
Willox, Sir John Archibald
Wilson, A. Stanley (*York, E. R.*
Wodehouse, Rt. Hn E. R. (*Bath*)
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-
Wylie, Alexander
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
Mr. Anstruther and Mr. Fellowes.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE said he wished to move the Amendment standing in the name of the hon. Member for Morley. He thought it was a perfectly fair proposition, and he could not see how anyone could complain of it. He begged to move—

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"After the words last inserted, to insert the words, '(10) In every school for education other than elementary aided by the local authority the authority shall be represented on the governing body in such proportion as will, as nearly as may be, correspond to the proportion whic the aid given bears to the income from all other sources.'"—(*Mr. Lloyd-George.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted in the Bill."

SIR WILLIAM ANSON said that if a secondary school desired the assistance of the local educational authority, the local education authority were not bound to give it anything, but they might say they would give so much and would, as a condition of the grant, have such and such representation on the governing body. It was better to leave the local education authority to make its own terms, because the school must accept those terms if it wanted the money. The hon. Member's Amendment might perhaps force on the local authority a representation which might be inconvenient.

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 66; Noes, 152. (Division List No. 173.)

AYES.

Abraham, William (*Rhondda*)
Allen, Chas. P. (*Glos., Stroud*)
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Beaumont, Wentworth C. B.
Black, Alexander William
Bolton, Thomas Dolling
Broadhurst, Henry
Caldwell, James
Causton, Richard Knight
Cawley, Frederick
Cremer, William Randal
Crooks, William
Davies, Alfred (*Carmarthen*)
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Duncan, J. Hastings
Edwards, Frank
Elibank, Master of
Fenwick, Charles
Fuller, J. M. F.
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Griffith, Ellis J.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Hayne, Rt. Hn. Charles Seale-
Hutchinson, Dr. Charles Fredk.
Jones, William (*Carnarvonsh.*
Lambert, George
Langley, Batty
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (*Cornwall*
Leigh, Sir Joseph
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lough, Thomas
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
M'Laren, Sir Charles Benj.
Mansfield, Horace Rendall
Markham, Arthur Basil
Morgan, J. Lloyd (*Carmarthen*
Philipps, John Wynford
Pirie, Duncan V.
Priestley, Arthur
Rea, Russell
Rickett, J. Compton
Roberts, John Bryn (*Eifion*)
Roberts, John H. (*Denbighs.*)
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rose, Charles Day
Runciman, Walter
Samuel, Herbt. L. (*Cleveland*)
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Charles E. (*Stafford*)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair, John (*Forfarshire*)
Soares, Ernest J.
Taylor, Theodore C. (*Radcliffe*)
Tennant, Harold John
Thomas, A. (*Carmarthen, E.*)
Thomas, David A. (*Merthyr*)
Tomkinson, James
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Walton, Joseph (*Barnsley*)
White, George (*Norfolk*)
Whitley, J. H. (*Halifax*)
Wilson, F.W. (*Norfolk, Mid*)
Wilson, H. J. (*York, W. R.*)
Wilson, John (*Durham, Mid.*)

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Lloyd-George and Mr. Samuel Evans.

NOES.

Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Arrol, Sir William
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Aubrey-Fletcher, Rt. Hn. Sir H.
Bagot, Capt. Josceline FitzRoy
Bailey, James (*Walworth*)
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (*Manch'r*
Balfour, Capt. C. B. (*Hornsey*)
Balfour, Rt Hn Gerald W. (*Leeds*
Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.
Bigwood, James
Bill, Charles
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bond, Edward
Bowles, Lt.-Col. H. F (*Middlesex*
Brassey, Albert
Bull, William James
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Butcher, John George
Campbell, J. H. M. (*Dublin Univ*
Cautley, Henry Strother
Cavendish, V. C. W. (*Derbyshire*
Cayzer, Sir Charles William
Cecil, Evelyn (*Aston Manor*)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (*Greenwich*)
Chamberlain, Rt Hon J (*Birm*
Chamberlain, Rt Hn. J. A. (*Worc*
Chapman, Edward
Charrington, Spencer
Clive, Captain Percy A.
Cochrane, Hn. Thos. H. A. E.
Collings, Right Hon. Jesse
Colomb, Sir John Charles Ready
Colston, Chas. Edw H. Athole
Cox, Irwin Edward Bainbridge
Cross, Alexander (*Glasgow*)
Cross, Herb. Shepherd (*Bolton*
Crossley, Rt. Hon. Sir Savile
Dalkeith, Earl of
Denny, Colonel
Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Doxford, Sir William Theodore
Elliot, Hon A. Ralph Douglas
Faber, George Denison (*York*)
Fergusson, Rt Hn. Sir J. (*Manc'r*
Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Fisher, William Hayes
Flower, Ernest
Forster, Henry William
Foster, P. S. (*Warwick, S. W.*
Fyler, John Arthur
Galloway, William Johnson
Gordon, Maj Evans- (*T r H'mlets*
Gore, Hn G R. C. Ormsby- (*Salop*
Gray, Ernest (*West Ham*)
Greene, Sir E W (*B'ry S Edm'nds*
Greene, W. Raymond (*Cambs*
Grenfell, William Henry
Gretton, John
Groves, James Grimble
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Guthrie, Walter Murray
Hamilton, Rt Hn Lord G (*Midd'x*
Hardy, Laurence (*Kent, Ashfd*
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Heath, James (*Staffords. N. W.*
Hogg, Lindsay
Howard, John (*Kent Faversham*
Jessel, Captain Herbert Merton
Kenyon, Hon. G. T. (*Denbigh*
Kerr, John
Keswick, William
Knowles, Lees
Lambton, Hon. Frederick Wm.
Law, Andrew Bonar (*Glasgow*)
Lawson, John Grant (*Yorks. N. R*
Lees, Sir Elliott (*Birkenhead*)
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leveson-Gower, Frederick N. S.
Llewellyn, Evan Henry
Lockwood, Lieut.-Col. A. R.
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Long, Col. Charles W. (*Evesham*
Long, Rt. Hon. Walter (*Bristol, S*
Lowther, C. (*Cumb. Eskdale*)
Lucas, Col. Francis (*Lowestoft*)
Lucas, Reginald J. (*Portsmouth*)
Lyttelton, Hon. Alfred
Macdona, John Cumming
M'Killop, James (*Stirlingshire*
Majendie, James A. H.
Massey-Mainwaring, Hon W. F.
Meysey-Thompson, Sir H. M.
Milvain, Thomas
Montagu, G. (*Huntingdon*)
Montagu, Hon. J. Scott (*Hants.*
Morgan, David J. (*Walthamst'w*
Morgan, Hn. F. (*Monm'thsh.*)
Morton, Arthur H. Aylmer
Mount, William Arthur
Murray, Rt. Hn A. Graham (*Bute*

Murray, Charles J. (*Coventry*)
Nicholson, William Graham
Nolan, Joseph (*Louth, S.*)
Orr-Ewing, Charles Lindsay
Palmer, Walter (*Salisbury*)
Percy, Earl
Pilkington, Colonel Richard
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Pretyman, Ernest George
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Randles, John S.
Ratcliff, R. F.
Reid, James (*Greenock*)
Remnant, Jamss Farquharson
Renwick, George
Ridley,S.Forde(*BethnalGreen*)
Roberts, Samuel (*Sheffield*)
Robertson, H. (*Hackney*)
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford-
Sadler, Col. Samuel Alexander
Seely, Charles Hilton (*Lincoln*
Sinclair, Louis (*Romford*)
Smith,Abel H. (*Hertford, East*
Smith,H.C(*North'mb,Tyneside*
Smith,James Parker (*Lanarks*
Smith, Hn. W. F. D. (*Strand*)
Stanley, Lord (*Lancs.*)
Stirling-Maxwell, Sir John M.
Talbot,Rt.Hn.J.G(*Oxf'd Univ*
Tomlinson, Sir Wm. Edw. M.
Valentia, Viscount
Walker, Col. William Hall
Walrond, Rt. Hn. Sir Wm. H.
Warde, Colonel C. E.
Webb, Colonel William George
Welby,Lt-Col.A.C.E(*Taunton*
Welby,SirCharlesG.E.(*Notts.*)
Whiteley,H.(*Ashton-und-Lyne*
Whitmore, Charles Algernon
Willoughby de Eresby, Lord
Willox, Sir John Archibald
Wilson,A. Stanley(*York, E.R.*
Wortley, Rt. Hn. C. B. Stuart
Wylie, Alexander
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Anstruther and Mr. Fellowes.

MR. LOUGH said he regarded the Amendment which he now proposed to move as of great importance. It dealt with the supplying of school places for all grades of education; and he particularly desired to raise the question of education other than elementary. In Section 16 of the Act of last year it was provided that if the local education authority did not provide a sufficient number of places for elementary education the Board of Education should be empowered to provide them. Therefore, he would not press the matter with regard to elementary education; but it was a matter of the greatest importance as regarded secondary education, as the demands of education were increasing every day. The School Board had had great difficulty in the matter owing to the Cockerton judgment; and the object of his Amendment was to provide machinery for, so to speak, "mandamusing" the local education authority in connection with higher grade education. He believed such a provision was more necessary in London than in any other part of the Kingdom. He did not know whether the whole of his Amendment was necessary or whether better words might not be suggested; but the matter was one of the greatest importance, and he hoped they would obtain satisfaction from the Government in connection with it.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"After the words last inserted, to insert the words, '(11) if at any time after the expiration of one year from the commencement of this Act it is represented to the Board of Education that there is in any district an insufficient amount of school accommodation under public management for any grade of education, and the Board of Education are satisfied after inquiry that such is the case, the Board of Education shall direct the deficiency to be supplied in manner provided by Section sixteen of the principal Act.'"—(*Mr. Lough.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted in the Bill."

*SIR WILLIAM ANSON said that the hon. Gentleman must know that he was very fully alive to the needs of London in respect of secondary education, but the Amendment of the hon. Gentleman appeared to him to be impracticable. It was perfectly easy to say whether there was or was not a proper supply of school places for elementary education; but secondary education, unlike elementary education, was not compulsory; and the means of obtaining secondary education were extremely varied. In one particular area a different kind of secondary education might be desired to that in another, and the Board of Education would have to undertake an elaborate course of inspection and inquiry, at the end of which it would probably have no material at its disposal to justify it in putting compulsion on the local authority. The local authority would be better able to know the needs of any particular locality than the Board of Education, and he would ask the hon. Gentleman not to compel the Board of Education to put any such compulsion on the local education authority.

MR. J. H. LEWIS said when the principal Act was under discussion it was pointed out over and over again that unless something mandatory was done the local authority would not do their duty in regard to secondary education, as their time would be occupied with the details of elementary education. Those prophecies had been borne out by the facts, as practically nothing in the direction of secondary education had been done, and there was no prospect of anything substantial being done for some time to come. Secondary education was the crying need of the country; its proper organisation was even more important than that of elementary education, and the Amendment would ensure something, at any rate, being done in the right direction. The hon. Baronet had raised unnecessary difficulties. The Amendment could do no harm, while, on the other hand, it might be the means of promoting one of the most important branches of education which at present, in consequence of the pressure of other duties, was only too likely to be neglected.

MR. SAMUEL EVANS pointed out that higher education now included, in addition to technical education, such matters as the training of pupil teachers and the provision of evening continuation and higher grade schools. It was, therefore, very desirable that some mandatory provision should be inserted in the Bill.

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 65; Noes, 137. (Division List No. 174).

AYES.

Abraham, William (*Rhondda*)
Allen, Chas. P. (*Glos., Stroud*)
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Beaumont, Wentworth C. B.
Black, Alexander William
Bolton, Thomas Dolling
Bryce, Right Hon. James
Caldwell, James
Causton, Richard Knight
Cawley, Frederick
Cremer, William Randal
Crooks, William
Davies, Alfred (*Carmarthen*)
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Duncan, J. Hastings
Edwards, Frank
Elibank, Master of
Evans, Saml. T. (*Glamorgan*)
Fenwick, Charles
Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herbert J.
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Griffith, Ellis J.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Hayne, Rt.Hon. Charles Seale-
Hutchinson,Dr.CharlesFredk.
Jones, Wm. (*Carnarvonshire*)
Lambert, George
Langley, Batty
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (*Cornwall*
Leigh, Sir Joseph
Levy, Maurice
Lloyd-George, David
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
M'Arthur, William (*Cornwall*)
M'Laren, Sir Charles Benj.
Mansfield, Horace Rendall
Markham, Arthur Basil
Philipps, John Wynford
Pirie, Duncan V.
Priestley, Arthur
Rea, Russell
Rickett, J. Compton
Roberts, John Bryn (*Eifion*)
Roberts, John H. (*Denbighs.*)
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rose, Charles Day
Samuel, Herbert L. (*Cleveland*)
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Charles E. (*Stafford*)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair, John (*Forfarshire*)
Soares, Ernest J.
Strachey, Sir Edward
Taylor,Theodore C. (*Radcliffe*)
Tennant, Harold John
Thomas, A. (*Carmarthen, E.*)
Thomas, David A. (*Merthyr*)
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Walton, Joseph (*Barnsley*)
White, George (*Norfolk*)
Whitley, J. H. (*Halifax*)
Wilson, F.W. (*Norfolk, Mid*)
Wilson, H. J. (*York, W. R.*)
Wilson, John (*Durham, Mid*)

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Lough and Mr. Herbert Lewis.

NOES.

Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Arrol, Sir William
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Aubrey-Fletcher,Rt.Hn.SirH.
Bagot, Capt. Josceline Fitzroy
Bailey, James (*Walworth*)
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J. (*Man'r*
Balfour,CaptainC. B.(*Hornsey*)
Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.
Bigwood, James
Bill, Charles
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bond, Edward
Bowles,Lt.-Col.H.F(*Middlesex*
Brassey, Albert
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Butcher, John George
Campbell,J.H.M.(*Dublin Univ*
Cautley, Henry Strother
Cavendish, V. C. W. (*Derbysh.*
Cecil, Evelyn (*Aston Manor*)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (*Greenwich*)
Chamberlain, Rt Hon J (*Birm*
Chamberlain,Rt.Hn.J A (*Worc*
Chapman, Edward
Charrington, Spencer
Clive, Captain Percy A.
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colomb,SirJohnCharles Ready
Colston, Chas. Edw. H. Athole
Cross, H. Shepherd (*Bolton*)
Crossley, Rt. Hon. Sir Savile
Dalkeith, Earl of
Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Doxford, Sir William Theodore
Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas
Faber, George Denison (*York*)
Fergusson, Rt. Hn. Sir J. (*Man'r*
Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
Finch, Rt. Hn. George H.
Fisher, William Hayes
Forster, Henry William
Foster,PhilipS.(*Warwick.S.W*
Fyler, John Arthur
Galloway, William Johnson
Gordon,Maj Evans (*Tr. Hmlts*
Gore,HnG.R.C.Ormsby-(*Salop*
Gray, Ernest (*West Ham*)
Greene,Sir E.W.(*Bury St.Ed.*)
Greene, W. Raymond- (*Cambs*
Grenfell, William Henry
Gretton, John
Groves, James Grimble
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Guthrie, Walter Murray
Hamilton,RtHnLordG.(*Mid'x*
Hardy, Laurence (*Kent,Ashfd*
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Heath, James (*Staffs., N. W.*)

Hogg, Lindsay
Howard, Jno (*Kent, Faver'h'n*
Kemp, Lieut.-Colonel George
Kenyon, Hon. G. T. (*Denbigh*
Kerr, John
Keswick, William
Knowles, Lees
Lambton, Hon. Fredk. Wm.
Law, Andrew Bonar (*Glasgow*)
Lawson, John Grant (*Yorks. NR*
Lees, Sir Elliott (*Birkenhead*)
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leveson-Gower, Frederick N. S.
Lockwood, Lieut.-Col. A. R.
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Long, Col. Chas. W. (*Evesham*
Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (*Bristol, S*
Lowther, C. (*Cumb. Eskdale*)
Lucas, Col. Francis (*Lowstoft*)
Lucas, Reginald. J (*Portsmouth*)
Macdona, John Cumming
M'Killop, James (*Stirlingshire*
Majendie, James A. H.
Massey-Mainwaring, Hn. W. F.
Meysey-Thompson, Sir H. M.
Milvain, Thomas
Montagu, G. (*Huntingdon*)
Morgan, D. J. (*Walthamstow*)
Morgan, Hn. F. (*Monm'thsh.*)
Morton, Arthur H. Aylmer
Mount, William Arthur
Murray, Rt Hn A. Graham (*Bute*
Murray, Charles J. (*Coventry*)
Nolan, Col. John P. (*Galway, N.*)
Orr-Ewing, Charles Lindsay
Palmer, Walter (*Salisbury*)
Percy, Earl
Pilkington, Colonel Richard
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Pretyman, Ernest George
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Randles, John S.
Ratcliff, R. F.
Reid, James (*Greenock*)
Remnant, James Farquharson
Renwick, George
Ridley, S. F. (*Bethnal Green*)
Roberts, Samuel (*Sheffield*)
Robertson, H. (*Hackney*)
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford
Sadler, Col. Samuel Alexander
Sinclair, Louis (*Romford*)
Smith, Abel H. (*Hertford, East*)
Smith, H C (*North'mb. Tyneside*
Smith, James Parker (*Lanarks.*
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (*Strand*)
Stanley, Lord (*Lancs.*)
Stirling-Maxwell, Sir Jno. M.
Talbot, Rt. Hn. J. G (*Oxf'd Univ*
Tomlinson, Sir Wm. Edw. M.
Valentia, Viscount
Walker, Col. William Hall
Walrond, Rt Hn. Sir William H.
Warde, Colonel C. E.
Webb, Colonel William George
Welby, Sir Chas. G. E. (*Notts*)
Whiteley, H (*Ashton-und-Lyne*
Willoughby de Eresby, Lord
Willox, Sir John Archibald
Wilson, A. Stanley (*York, E.R.*)
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C.B. Stuart-
Wylie, Alexander
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Anstruther and Mr. Fellowes.

*MR. SOARES (Devonshire, Barnstaple) said the Amendment he had to propose raised a point of very considerable importance indeed, which had not been raised in the discussions on this Bill and was only slightly alluded to in the discussions on the principal Act. The point was discussed on the question of powers and duties of the education authorities on the principal Act, but at the request of the Government discussion was deferred to a later stage which was however never reached owing to circumstances over which they on that side of the House had no control. What was the state of affairs he desired to remedy by this Amendment? In many districts throughout the country and in London there were cases in which the managers of denominational schools had transferred their schools to the School Board. They had found out that they did not receive the support they had expected from the denominationalists; consequently the strain was too much for them, and in days gone by they had handed over their schools to the School Board. The circumstances were entirely changed by this Bill and that strain was entirely removed. He wanted to know whether or not these denominations were to be allowed to take these schools back again and turn them into non-provided schools. An important point he desired the House to recollect was this, that all over the country members of the Government and their supporters had said over and over again that although the education policy of the present Government destroyed School Boards not a single Board school would be affected, yet if this Amendment was not accepted many a Board school would be destroyed. The schools which had been transferred in the way he had indicated had been transferred under Section 23 of the Education Act of 1870 which set out the mode in which the transfer could be made. Section 24 of the same Act set out the manner of re-transfer, and by that section, in order that such a re-transfer could be made, it required a resolution to be passed by two-thirds of the members of the School Board present at the time; and in the second place it required the consent of the Education Department. Under this Bill the powers of the old School Board were vested in the education authority, and therefore in order that a school might be re-transferred in the way he had indicated it would require in the first place the consent of two-thirds of the members of the education authority present at the time; and in the second place the consent of the Education Department. He thought if these transfers were permitted it would be grossly unfair because the conditions had entirely changed. The expenses for the maintenance of those schools were now borne by the public, and that was a very substantial change indeed. It must also be borne in mind that the teachers of those schools had hitherto been appointed by the public, but if a re-transfer were made they would be appointed by the denomination and subject to all those religious tests which were so much disliked on this side of the House.

This idea of a re-transfer was not by any means a chimerical one. There could be no doubt that the bishop in every diocese would proceed, as soon as he had a little leisure, to look about to see what further schools could be captured for the Church, and he would begin with those schools which had been transferred to the School Board. Although many a parson would be willing to see the *status quo* continued, unfortunately they would have, sooner or later, to climb down and consent to the demand of the Bishop. The hon. Baronet the Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Education, speaking on this subject on 14th July last year said—

> "Quite apart from the difficulty of the two-thirds majority, which had been referred to, it had to be remembered that heretofore a school, when re-transferred, was tranferred to a body prepared to take over its maintenance, whereas now it would be transferred to a body which would continue to repair the buildings, but would not be responsible for the maintenance. Under these circumstances the position was so very different that he hoped the Government would promise favourably to consider the repeal of Clause 24 when the schedule was reached."

On the same day the Prime Minister said:—

> "It was perfectly true that the policy of the Bill was that under certain circumstances new denominational schools might be built not at the expense of the denomination, but that was very different from a case in which a denomination was unwilling or unable to continue the cost of a school, and had transferred it to the local authority under conditions which made a re-transfer impossible unless there was some extraordinary change in local circumstances. It would be a rather strong order to say that there should be a transfer to a denomination when the burden of keeping up the schools had been so largely diminished. His own inclination would be to say that this power of re-transfer—which he thought was rarely if ever used—should not be continued, but that the denominations should be content with the very large powers given to them to erect denominational schools where there seemed to be a real necessity for them."

He interpreted these speeches as amounting to a distinct pledge that the schools should not be transferred. He hoped the Government would see their way to redeem that pledge on this opportunity. It might be said that these schools had been leased at a nominal rent. He was willing, if this power of re-transfer was done away with, that a substantial rent should be paid by the local education authority, or that the local education authority should buy the school at a fair price, making a deduction of all those moneys which had been provided by the country. He hoped the hon. Baronet in his reply would not say that this was a matter on which the County Council could be safely trusted because they had the power of veto. Although hon. Members on this side were entirely satisfied with the political composition of the London County Council at present, it was possible that some day that composition might change, just as the composition of the present Government was destined very speedily to change, and under those circumstances it might not be so satisfactory to them. He begged to move.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

> "After the words last inserted, to insert the words '(11) Notwithstanding anything contained in Section eight of the principal Act no school which was transferred to the School Board for London previous to the passing of this Act shall be so re-transferred under that section and under Section twenty-four of the Elementary Education Act of 1870, as to be treated under this Act or the principal Act as a non-provided school.'"—(*Mr. Soares.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted in the Bill."

*SIR WILLIAM ANSON said the Question of re-transfer would now be in the hands of the local authority, and except by resolution of a two-thirds majority proceedings for transfer could not even be initiated. He could not accept the Amendment, but he would look into this question, and if the position of London was found to be exceptional in respect of the number of schools which might be re-transferred, he would see whether it was possible to devise some preferential treatment for London.

DR. MACNAMARA said he wished to express his own satisfaction with what the Parliamentary Secretary had just said. In regard to London, the case was very singular indeed. No fewer than 354 denominational school departments had found themselves unable since 1870 to continue their work because they had to provide voluntary contributions to maintenance, and these voluntary contributions were not forthcoming. Therefore they had asked the School Board to take over these schools and pay a rent for them. Now, the position was that they had no charge whatever for maintenance, and the denominational managers asked that these schools should be given back to them. These 354 schools had an average attendance of 200 children each, so that over 70,000 children had been sent to these common schools where they received undenominational teaching at the instance of the denominations themselves. Now, all of a sudden it was said that the schools should go back to the Church of England. There was the case of the 354 teachers in these schools who had all been appointed by the School Board of London without reference to creed at all. If these schools were re-transformed into Church of England schools, the teachers might be asked by the managers to give henceforth Church of England teaching. But he should say it was obviously unjust to ask these teachers, who might not be members of the Church of England, to give Church of England teaching on pain of dismissal. He hoped that the Government would look into this matter very carefully before the final stage of the Bill, and that something would be done to make these re-transfers very difficult, if not impossible.

MR. BRYCE said it was clear to his mind that there ought to be no case in which a re-transfer should be allowed; and he could not understand how it was that the hon. Baronet did not accept the Amendment at once. He would not dissuade his hon. friend from accepting the undertaking of the Baronet, for he was certain that that undertaking would be carried out.

MR SOARES said, having regard to the undertaking given by the hon. Baronet, he asked leave to withdraw his Amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Bill to be read the third time on Monday next, and to be printed. [Bill 279.]

NEW BILL.

TUBERCULOSIS (ANIMALS) COMPENSATION.

Bill to provide for payment of compensation to the owners of carcases of animals condemned after slaughter and destroyed by order of a magistrate on account of Tuberculosis, ordered to be brought in by Mr. Ernest Gray, Sir Joseph Dimsdale, Mr. Field, Mr. Batty Langley, Mr. M'Arthur, Mr. Samuel Roberts, Sir Albert Rollit, Mr. William Rutherford, Mr. Schwann, and Mr. Tomkinson.

TUBERCULOSIS (ANIMALS) COMPENSATION BILL.

"To provide for the payment of compensation to the owners of carcases of animals condemned after slaughter and destroyed by order of a magistrate on account of Tuberculosis," presented accordingly, and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Wednesday next, and to be printed. [Bill 280.]

Adjourned at ten minutes after One o'clock.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Thursday, 16*th July*, 1903.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Pontypridd Urban District Council Bill [H.L.]; Frinton-on-Sea Sea Defences Bill [H.L.]. Commons' Amendments considered, and agreed to.

North Metropolitan Electric Power Supply Bill [H.L.]. Committed. The Committee to be proposed by the Committee of Selection.

Great Western Railway Bill. The King's consent and the consent of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, in right of his Duchy of Cornwall, signified; and Bill reported, with Amendments.

London United Tramways Bill. Reported, with Amendments.

London, Tilbury, and Southend Railway Bill. Reported, with Amendments.

Great Northern, Piccadilly, and Brompton Railway (Various Powers) Bill. The King's consent signified; and Bill reported, with Amendments.

Harrow Road and Paddington Tramways Bill. Reported from the Select Committee, with Amendments.

Metropolitan Police Provisional Order Bill. Report from the Select Committee, That the Committee had not proceeded with the consideration of the Bill, the Committee having found that the petitioners had no *locus standi* before them; read, and ordered to lie on the Table. The orders made on the 26th of June and Thursday last discharged; and Bill committed to a Committee of the Whole House.

Dublin, Wicklow, and Wexford Railway Bill; Ebbw Vale Water and Improvement Bill; Western Valleys (Monmouthshire) Sewerage Board Bill. Report from the Select Committee, That the Committee adjourned yesterday over this day.

Dublin, Wicklow, and Wexford Railway Bill; Ebbw Vale Water and Improvement Bill; Western Valleys (Monmouthshire) Sewerage Board Bill. Report from the Committee of Selection, That the Marquess of Bath and the Lord Congleton be proposed to the House as members of the Select Committee on the said Bills in the place of the Earl of Haddington and the Lord Lamington; read, and agreed to.

Ulster and Connaught Light Railways Bill. Moved, That the Order made on the 16th of March last, "That no Private Bill brought from the House of Commons shall be read a second time after the 18th day of June next," be dispensed with, and that the Bill be now read 2ª; agreed to; Bill read 2ª accordingly, and committed.

Wigan Corporation Tramways Bill. Read 3ª, with the Amendments, and passed, and returned to the Commons.

Middlesbrough Corporation Bill. Read 3ª, with the Amendments; further Amendments made; Bill passed, and returned to the Commons.

Alexandra Park and Palace Bill. Brought from the Commons; read 1ª; and referred to the Examiners.

Scottish American Mortgage Company, Limited, Bill [H.L.]. Returned from the Commons agreed to, with Amendments.

Cardiff Railway Bill [H.L.]; Aston Manor Improvement Bill [H.L.]. Returned from the Commons agreed to, with Amendments; The said Amendments considered, and agreed to.

Local Government Provisional Order (No. 16) Bill; Grindleford, Baslow, and Bakewell Railway Bill. Returned from the Commons with the Amendments agreed to.

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 9) Bill; Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 5) Bill. Read 3ª (according to order), and passed.

Pier and Harbour Provisional Orders (No. 5) Bill. Amendment reported (according to order), and Bill to be read 3ª to-morrow.

An Asterisk (*) at the commencement of a Speech indicates revision by the Member.

Glasgow Corporation (Police) Order Confirmation Bill [H.L.]; Irvine and District Water Board Order Confirmation Bill [H.L.]. Read 3a (according to order), and passed, and sent to the Commons.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

TRADE REPORTS—ANNUAL SERIES.

No. 3031. Zanzibar (Pemba).
No. 3032. Persia (Kernan).
No. 3033. China (Pakhoi).

AFRICA, No 8 (1903).

Report on slavery and free labour in the British East Africa Protectorate.

COMMERCIAL, No. 6 (1903).

Findings of the Permanent Commission established under Article VII. of the Sugar Convention of 5th March, 1902, and Report of the British delegate.

HORSE BREEDING.

Ninth Report of the Royal Commission on Horse Breeding.

ARMY.

Memorandum by the Director-General, Army Medical Service, on the physical unfitness of men offering themselves for enlistment in the Army.

Presented [by Command], and ordered to lie on the Table.

SUPERANNUATION.

Treasury Minute, dated 11th July, 1903, granting a retired allowance to Louis Charles Lepts, sorting clerk and telegraphist, Liverpool Post-office, under Section 2 of the Superannuation Act, 1887.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS AMENDMENT ACT, 1890.

Regulations made by the Local Government Board for Ireland as to issue of stock by urban authorities.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOP (SPECIAL EXCEPTIONS: MEAL HOURS, IRON AND STEEL FOUNDRIES IN SCOTLAND).

Order, dated 11th July, 1903, made by the Secretary of State for the Home Department in pursuance of Section 40 (4) of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, extending the special exceptions as to meal hours to male young persons employed in iron and steel foundries in Scotland.

CRIMINAL LAW AND PROCEDURE (IRELAND) ACT, 1887.

Proclamation, dated 14th July, 1903, revoking the several proclamations mentioned in the schedule thereto.

Laid before the House [pursuant to Act], and ordered to lie on the Table.

LAND PURCHASE (IRELAND).

Return respecting. Laid before the House [pursuant to Order of the 3rd instant], and to be printed. (No. 165.)

INCEST BILL.

[SECOND READING.]

Order of the Day for the Second Reading, read.

*THE EARL OF DONOUGHMORE: My Lords, I do not wish to enter into any detailed explanation of this Bill, which has come up to your Lordships' House after passing through all its stages in another place, including a most exhaustive threshing out in Standing Committee. The Bill deals with rather an unpleasant subject, but at the same time it is one the seriousness of which cannot be questioned. There is one point in the Bill which I should like to mention at once. In Clause 1, line 7, the word "step-daughter" occurs, but if your Lordships think fit to read the Bill a second time to-day I shall ask leave, in Committee, to delete this word and thereby to confine the operation of the Bill to blood relations. The object is to punish as a misdemeanour what is one of the most horrible and unnatural crimes conceivable, but which at present is no crime at all according to English law.

Since the Restoration the punishment of this crime has been left to what has been described as the "feeble coercion of the ecclesiastical Courts." Incest is, at present, only a crime by ecclesiastical law; it is not a crime under the criminal law. I am sure I am not saying too much when I assert that their most strenuous advocates will not claim that the ecclesiastical Courts are a proper tribunal to deal with such cases. It is an undoubted fact that this offence is committed. I have made careful enquiries in many directions and have ascertained from many people who have had experience both in large towns and rural districts that cases do very often occur. I was talking only this afternoon to a minister of the Roman Catholic Church who has had very great experience on the other side of the river, in Southwark. He tells me that cases are frequently coming to his notice. I have also had a conversation with a magistrate in the County of Essex, and he says he has known of three undoubted cases of incest. There are many others which must occur, and yet there is absolutely no power of dealing with them criminally. In Scotland, ever since 1857, a punishment has been provided for this offence, and, indeed, until 1887 the punishment by law was death. I believe that in practice the punishment was generally penal servitude, and I have ascertained, in the course of the few researches I have made, that last century there was one case of penal servitude for life. I might mention, further, that many States in the United States of America also recognise incest as a criminal offence, but it is to the Scottish example that I appeal chiefly. If it is a crime in Scotland it should be so in England. We do already indirectly recognise it as a crime in this country, for incest is one of the aggravations which enable a wife to divorce her husband. This Bill is only really a logical and practical extension of this partial recognition, and I trust that it will commend itself on its merits to your Lordships. The passing of this measure into law would act as a most salutary preventive, and I do not believe that as a result of its passing, the halfpenny newspapers would endeavour to make fortunes by spreading detailed reports of criminal cases under this Bill. There are countless laws on the Statute-book whose whole operation is indirect, and whose very existence acts as a deterrent. It is because I believe that this Bill, if passed, would have a similar effect, that I ask your Lordships to read it a second time.

Moved, that the Bill be now read 2ª.—(*The Earl of Donoughmore.*)

THE LORD CHANCELLOR (The Earl of HALSBURY): My Lords, I regret very much that the nature of this Bill is one which renders it repulsive to everybody to discuss it. I confess that I think that if the law which has prevailed for some centuries on the subject is to be altered some greater case ought to have been presented to your Lordships for so doing. The noble Earl says, I have no doubt quite accurately, that he has made private inquiry. But surely that is not the mode by which a complete alteration of the criminal law is to be justified. I believe that legislation of this character is calculated to do an infinite amount of mischief. The noble Earl says he is confident that certain newspapers will not make capital out of these cases. I do not know where his confidence comes from. It strikes me that anything of this sort would be eagerly grasped by some portion of the Press, who make these things more public than they otherwise would be. I wish to do every credit to the noble Earl and those who are acting with him, but I cannot help thinking that it is zeal without knowledge. Everyone who is familiar with the administration of the criminal law is well aware that the publicity given to an offence at one Assize Court produces a crop of similar offences at other Assizes; and these are cases which it is inadvisable to drag into the light of day. I do think that it is a reflection on the beginning of the twentieth century that it should be thought necessary to deal with this matter at all. I cannot help thinking that it has not been sufficiently discussed, or the other House would not have rashly passed such a Bill without some evidence as to the necessity for it. I confess that I am very much impressed by the wisdom of the view on these subjects which Tacitus ascribed to the Germans—*Diversitas supplicii illuc respicit, tanquam scelera ostendi oporteat, dum puniuntur, flagitia abscondi.* That is, I believe, the truer view of what ought to be done in this matter, and it is with reluctance, because I believe I shall be running counter to the opinions of some whose views are worthy of consideration, but with a strong sense of duty, that I move that the Bill be read a second time this day six months.

Amendment moved—

"To omit the word 'now' in order to insert the words, 'this day six months.'"—(*The Lord Chancellor.*)

LORD DAVEY: My Lords, nobody can deny that an offence not only against morality and decency but against every instinct of human nature is one which is fit to be dealt with by the criminal law if such a course were expedient; but I confess that I share the doubts which have been expressed by my noble and learned friend on the Woolsack whether it is expedient at the present time, or at any time, except in peculiar circumstances, to pass this Bill. There is no one in this House who has had a larger experience of the administration of the criminal law than my noble and learned friend, and, so far as my much more limited knowledge and information go, I should agree with him that to ventilate a subject of this kind by means of prosecutions is likely to do a great deal more harm than good. I do not understand that there is any evidence that this offence is becoming more common, or that it has become necessary for any reason to deal with it in a different manner from that in which it has been dealt with up to the present time. If any such case were made out, of course your Lordships would have to consider it, but in the absence of any evidence of that kind I do not think the existing law should be altered.

THE EARL OF DONOUGHMORE: Recognising the force of the objections which have been urged against the Bill by the two noble and learned Lords, who, of course, are the best judges in this matter, I shall not trouble your Lordships to divide upon the Bill.

LORD TWEEDMOUTH: My Lords, I desire to say a single word, not on the merits of the Bill, but on the position in which the House has been placed by the action of the Government with regard to this Bill. The Bill has not been initiated by the noble Earl. It was brought forward in the other House and was sent to the Grand Committee, where it was carefully considered, and the Law Officers of the Crown and the Home Office must have had opinions upon it. It is hardly fair to your Lordships' House for the Government to have allowed the Bill to go so far if there are such strong objections against it as have been urged by the two noble and learned Lords who have spoken.

Motion, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

COUNTY COURTS JURISDICTION EXTENSION BILL.

[SECOND READING.]

Order of the day for the Second Reading read.

*LORD AVEBURY: My Lords, the object of the Bill which I now have the honour to submit to your Lordships is to extend the ordinary jurisdiction of County Courts from £50 to £100. The modern system of County Courts was created in the year 1846. At first these new Courts had jurisdiction only in Common Law cases in which the amount in dispute did not exceed £20. In the year 1850 the limit was raised to £50, and in 1856 these Courts were enabled to try almost any question by consent of both parties. In 1857 their jurisdiction was extended to actions relating to wills or intestacy where the property in dispute did not exceed £200 if personal and £300 if real. In 1865 they were empowered to deal with equitable claims of every kind so long as the amount involved did not exceed £500. At the present time the County Courts have original jurisdiction in numerous matters of which the principal are the following:—(1) Personal actions in which the debt, demand or damage claimed is not more than £50; (2) ejectment actions in which neither the annual value nor rent exceeds £50—this may represent a capital value of £1,000 or more; (3) equity actions and matters such as trusts, partnerships, foreclosure and redemption of mortgages, if the amount involved does not exceed £500; (4) claims under the Workmen's Compensation Act; (5) Admiralty matters (limited to forty-four Courts only) including salvage up to £1,000; towage and necessaries up to £150; damage to cargo and ship up to £300; (6) companies winding up (limited to 146 Courts) when the company's capital does not exceed £10,000; and (7) bankruptcy (limited to 146 Courts.)

It will be seen, therefore, that in several cases these Courts are already empowered to deal with sums far exceeding £50. In the year 1901, the last year for which statistics are available, there were 30,040 proceedings commenced in the County Courts other than proceedings for the recovery of sums not exceeding £20. It is thus evident that the County Courts have ceased to be Courts merely for the recovery of small debts. Moreover, Section 65 of the County Courts Act, 1888, provides that where in any action of contract brought in the High Court the claim endorsed on the writ does not exceed £100 it shall be lawful for either party to apply to a Judge of the High Court to order such action to be tried in the County Court, and on the hearing of the application the Judge shall, unless there is good cause to the contrary, order such action to be tried accordingly. In the year 1901, 1,351 actions were remitted from the High Court to the County Court and the five years average is 1,329.

There are numerous cases over £50 entered in the County Court by agreement of the parties; that is to say, cases in which both parties wish the trial to take place in the County Court. These cases averaged 403 in 1876–1880; and 1604 in 1897–1901. In the year 1901 they numbered 1949. It will be seen, therefore, that in considering the effect of the Bill the following proceedings must be left out of account inasmuch as they are already in the County Court—viz., (taking the figures for 1901)—Remitted from High Court—actions of contract from £50 to £100, 1,351; actions for damages, 111; and actions from £50 to £100 entered by agreement, 1949; making a total of 3,411. It is evident that if, as a result of this Bill, there is an increase of work thrown on County Courts it will tend to relieve the Judges of the High Court from some of the work they now have to do, and this will be an advantage, provided it can be secured without, at the same time overburdening the Judges of the County Courts. Moreover, the County Court Judges sit on an average fewer days in the year than High Court Judges and cannot reasonably complain if their work is slightly increased.

It has been shown that the County Court has ceased to be a Court merely for the recovery of small debts. The County Court Judges have for many years dealt with cases involving large amounts; their work may be increased, but that will not interfere with the recovery of small debts, for the really small cases are heard by the Registrar and not by the Judge. In the year 1901 the Registrars heard 392,898 cases and the Judges heard 48,023. The House of Commons received 144 petitions in favour of the Bill, including 104 from Municipal Corporations, and twenty-four from Law Societies. The Chambers of Commerce are, with one exception, unanimous in desiring this Bill to pass. Liverpool is, I believe, the only Chamber of Commerce which does not support the Bill. But Liverpool has the Court of Passage and special facilities. With that particular exception the commercial community strongly support the measure. I may say that within the last few days I have had an opportunity of conferring with the representatives of the Liverpool Chamber of Commerce on the Association of Chambers of Commerce, and they have authorised me to say that, subject to satisfactory arrangements as to working, they would not desire to offer any opposition to the passage of the Bill. I beg to move the Second Reading.

Moved, that the Bill be now read 2^a.—(*Lord Avebury.*)

*THE LORD CHANCELLOR: My Lords, I think the Bill furnishes an example—to which I would direct the attention of my noble friend Lord Tweedmouth—of how very ineffectual are warnings given by the Government in the other House as to the difficulties of particular legislation. Both the Law Officers repeatedly declared in the other House that this Bill in its present form is quite unworkable; and no one acquainted with the administration of the County Courts can entertain the smallest doubt that that is the fact. The effect of passing the Bill as it stands—if it could be worked at all—would be gradually to take away from the poor man's Court the whole of its present jurisdiction, because it would be squeezed out, in order to substitute another which does not concern the poor man. The number of Judges and Registrars, and the number of places in which the administration of the law is to go on, is fixed by statute, and this Bill makes no provision for their increase. This question of adding to the jurisdiction is intimately connected with the fixed amount of the Judges' salaries; and I say at once that the amount of jurisdiction which has already been added and which it is proposed to increase still further by this Bill, will undoubtedly make it impossible for many of the Judges in many districts to do their duty. And if you cannot increase the number of Judges or Registrars a state of confusion will be produced which is highly undesirable.

On the other hand, the Government do not wish to place any impediment in the way of increased jurisdiction, if it is desired. I think it would have been much better to leave it to the Government themselves to bring forward a Bill, as has been in contemplation, to deal with the jurisdiction of the County Courts. To say, as has been said in another place, that all the provisions necessary to make the present Bill workable can be added in this House, exhibits a marvellous ignorance of what your Lordships can do and what the Treasury can do. It seems to be supposed that the Treasury is possessed of some uncounted store which it can distribute at pleasure. I should have thought that members of the House of Commons might have ascertained the fact that neither the Treasury nor any one else can deal with public money without the sanction of Parliament, and that your Lordships have certainly no jurisdiction to initiate financial proposals. The Bill now comes before your Lordships on July 16th, and it is impossible to send it back again so that the questions of the supply of money or of making the Bill capable of being worked may be dealt with. We are therefore placed in this dilemma—either your Lordships must let an unworkable Bill pass or reject it, thereby showing great indifference to the wish expressed by a large majority in the other House. I am in some difficulty as to what to do in the matter, but what has occurred to me is this. If the Bill is allowed to pass now, the only way I can suggest to make it workable is to postpone the date of its operation until the House of Commons can do next session what it ought to have done this session—namely, supply funds and administration by which the measure can be made workable. If the Bill passes I shall move, in Committee, that the operation of it be postponed till such a time as will enable that to be done by the House of Commons.

*LORD THRING: As the Lord Chancellor has drawn attention to the form in which this Bill has been introduced, I desire to say a few words on that subject. I express no opinion on the merits of the Bill itself, but the Bill, in its present form, is absolutely unintelligible, and the Amendment which the noble Lord has put on the Paper is also unintelligible unless one can bear in mind at one time the County Courts Act, which consist of 200 clauses, and several other Acts of Parliament. If this were a solitary instance of a Bill being drafted in this way I should say nothing on the subject, but I do not think there has been a single Bill brought forward during the past session which has not had the drafting defects of this Bill. Many of the Bills brought forward are nothing more than a series of conundrums, with copious references to other Acts, which have to be worked out at great expense to the public. It is sometimes necessary—and I would refer to the Cruelty to Children Bill and the Motor-Cars Bill as instances of what I mean—to know a large part of the Statute-book before being enabled to comprehend the meaning of a particular Bill. I believe I have had more experience than any man living in drawing Acts of Parliament, and I altogether deny that to make Bills unintelligible is the best way to pass them. I have found throughout my long experience that the most likely way to carry an Act is to arrange it well and to make its provisions quite plain. I daresay my observations will be imputed to the pedantry of an old man. I admit it may be so. The noble Lord very clearly explained the measure, and I think that if two sentences had been extracted from his speech and put into the Bill, probably we should have understood the measure. As it is, I complain that this system of drafting unintelligible Bills is unjust to the subject and unjust to your Lordships, who are carrying measures day after day which I defy you to understand without reference to documents which are not before the House.

*THE LORD CHIEF JUSTICE (Lord ALVERSTONE E.): I will not follow the noble and learned Lord who has just spoken in his interesting historical reminiscences, beyond saying this, that I think I could call attention to some Acts drawn by himself which offend against the canon he has laid down. This Bill relates to a subject which I have had often to consider, both as Law Officer and whilst practising at the Bar, and I must say that I think His Majesty's Government have acted with great indulgence to the promoters of the Bill, inasmuch as the noble and learned Lord on the Woolsack has not moved its rejection. I am perfectly certain that nothing could be worse than that this Bill should pass in its present form. It has already been said—it is no exaggeration—and I wish to repeat the statement, that as the Bill is now framed it would be absolutely unworkable, would make things infinitely worse than they are at present, and would not achieve the result the promoters wish. But that is not the only ground on which I protest against the measure in its present shape. If you are going to interfere to a large extent with the jurisdiction of County Courts and extend it, you must do so upon some principle which will have regard to the exigencies of the Courts and the circumstances under which the work is done. The mere increase of the amount from £50 to £100 is no real guarantee that you will only have cases going to the County Court which will not occupy a large amount of time. There are numbers of cases in which the amount at issue is comparatively small, and yet the inquiry into them, and the examination involve a considerable amount of time. I think it would be far better to send to the County Court certain classes of cases in which it is plain, from the way the questions are raised, that there is not likely to be any serious amount of time involved, rather than simply to raise the pecuniary limit to £100.

It is correct to say that jurisdiction has already been conferred on County Courts in respect of even larger amounts, but the result has been to strain the present system to the utmost, and to restrict the time of Courts to deal with small cases. Therefore I venture to protest against the consideration of this subject from the point of view only of increasing the amount involved to £100.

If this Bill is going to pass, it is absolutely necessary that the matters referred to by the Lord Chancellor should be considered. The position of the Judges, the work of their Courts, their salaries, their Registrars, and other matters must be taken into consideration if you are going to send to the County Courts anything like a considerable proportion of the cases now heard in the High Courts. There is an extraordinary provision in this Bill, that in cases which are sent to the County Courts under the Bill—that is, between £50 and £100—there should be a jury of nine, whereas, in ordinary cases, there is only a jury of five. How that provision is to be worked I have not the smallest idea. The provision was not in the Bill originally, and I rather gather that it was nserted for some of those political reasons which do occur in another place. There are many Judges and counsel who hold the opinion that a jury of five is the worst possible tribunal on questions of fact. But if we are going to consider the question of an alteration in the number of the jury, I hope it will be looked at from a broader point of view.

Again, the last clause would result in cases being tried at Courts distant from where the parties reside, which would be a direct contravention of the system on which we have always proceeded, that the County Courts should be brought to the doors of the parties. The Bill contains a departure altogether from the system upon which the County Courts have been organised for the past thirty or forty years, and introduces changes which I am perfectly satisfied will be found to defeat the very object which the promoters have in view. I hope, if the Bill is to pass, that it will not be allowed to come into operation until January 1st, 1905, in order that the financial aspect, the convenience of suitors, and the real effect of the large transfer of cases to the County Court may be considered by persons practically acquainted with the matter. I am strongly in favour of an extension of the jurisdiction of County Courts. I have seen enough to know that there are considerable classes of cases which might with advantage be tried in the County Courts, but a money limit is no test as to the time a case will last or the questions that will be raised. I trust that the Government will look at the matter from a practical point of view, and that legislation for the extension of the jurisdiction of County Courts will not be left to a private Member.

Lord DAVEY: My Lords, I cannot help thinking that my noble and learned friends who have addressed your Lordships have somewhat exaggerated the difficulties of this Bill. It is as well to state over again the sole object of the Bill. The only change it makes is that whereas only actions of contract in which £50 is claimed can now be tried in the County Court, it is proposed that actions of the same kind should be tried in the County Court up to a limit of £100. I suppose my noble and learned friends who have placed before your Lordships objections to this Bill are in possession of some estimate of the increase of work it is likely to bring about.

The LORD CHANCELLOR: I may say that I have those figures, and had I thought it right to move the rejection of the Bill I should have called your Lordships' attention to them.

Lord DAVEY: So far as I am able to form an opinion I do not believe the increase of work will be so large as is thought. I will tell your Lordships why. Under the present law, actions up to £100 which are entered in the High Court can be, and are every day, sent to the County Court at the will of either of the parties, unless there be strong reason shown to the contrary; therefore, as a rule, actions up to the £100 limit, although they have to be commenced in the High Court, are, at the instance of either party, sent to the County Court. A number of such actions are sent annually in that way. I think the number last year was nearly 2,000.

Lord ALVERSTONE: The number was 1,400.

Lord DAVEY: And, in addition to those cases, the High Court has power to remit to the County Court actions of contract which are unlimited, and a large number of those actions are also remitted. I do not, therefore, believe that the increase of work would be so large as it is supposed; but, of course, I bow to my noble and learned friend on the Woolsack, who has sources of information which are not accessible to myself. Why is it that this Bill is said to be altogether unworkable and impracticable? Only, so far as I can understand, because it is contended that the increase of work will demand a large increase in the number of County Court Judges and Registrars. I confess that I should have thought the better course would be to pass the Bill and then ascertain by experience what the increase of work is. It would be possible then to make the provision required to meet any difficulty, if any difficulty arose. There is also the question of the remuneration of County Court Judges. This is not a new question. It has been the habit of Parliament to put new jurisdiction on to County Court Judges; that has been done recently with regard to the Workmen's Compensation Act and other Acts, and I must say that I think County Court Judges have a very good claim to some increase of remuneration. But I cannot believe that this Bill will constitute the "last straw on the camel's back," which will render the Judges unwilling to do the work which is assigned to them. I wish to add—and this is really my excuse for troubling your Lordships on the matter—that I have been entrusted with an official letter from the Incorporated Law Society of London, which, as your Lordships know, includes all the most eminent solicitors both in London and in the Provinces, asking me to support the Second Reading of this Bill, and I think the opinion of a body of men of that character, who are engaged in the practical work of litigation in all our Courts, is worthy of consideration. It is not suggested by them that the Bill is unworkable, or that it cannot be carried into effect, and I think their opinion, as well as that of the commercial classes whom my noble friend represents, is entitled to a great deal of weight. I am glad the noble and learned Lord on the Woolsack does not oppose the Second Reading of the Bill, but I must say I regret that the date at which it will come into effect will be postponed for so long a period as is suggested.

*LORD AVEBURY: My noble friend Lord Thring has been very severe in his remarks with regard to the drafting of this Bill, which he said nobody could understand. As a matter of fact, I did not see the Bill till it came to your Lordships' house from the House of Commons, but when I read it I was certainly under the impression that it was a comparatively simple Bill, and one the meaning of which could be very easily grasped. The essential provision is that the words "fifty pounds" shall be repealed, and that in lieu thereof there shall be inserted the words "one hundred pounds." I confess that that does not appear to me to be difficult to follow, nor can I see how such a provision can be described as unworkable. The noble and learned Lord the Lord Chief Justice said he himself wished to extend the jurisdiction of County Courts. The commercial community wish it extended in the simple mode in which it is extended by this Bill. It has been said that this is a matter which ought not to have been left to a private Member. The Chambers of Commerce have for many years past been pressing the Government to take this matter up, and, as they could not get the Government to move, they had no alternative but to do it themselves. The Bill was opposed in the other House by the Attorney-General, but when he came to take a division only nine other Members voted with him against the Bill. That, I think, shows how strong the feeling of the commercial community is in this matter. I am speaking for the whole of the Chambers of Commerce, and my noble and learned friend Lord Davey spoke on behalf of the Incorporated Law Society. At the same time, I cannot but feel that the proposal made by the noble and learned Earl on the Woolsack may be reasonable, and one which I cannot resist. I hope, however, that the operation of the Bill will not be postponed beyond a fixed date, and certainly not later than another year.

On Question, Bill read 2^a and committed to a Committee of the whole House on Thursday next.

OUTDOOR RELIEF (PENSIONERS) BILL.

[SECOND READING.]

Order of the day for the Second Reading read.

*THE MARQUESS OF GRANBY: My Lords, in moving the Second Reading of this Bill I would point out that it consists of only one operative clause, and that clause simply provides that a board of guardians, in granting outdoor relief to any pensioner of the Army or Navy otherwise entitled to such relief, shall not take into consideration the amount of his pension except in so far as it exceeds 5s. a week. I am aware that this Bill in its provisions follows somewhat closely another Bill which met with an unfortunate reception at your Lordships' hands recently, but I would point out that this measure affects another class of the community altogether. This Bill touches a class who have done good service for their country, and have very possibly been wounded in that service, and it is designed with the object primarily of enabling those men to keep out of the workhouse. There is nothing which acts more prejudicially against recruiting than the fact that a man who has served in His Majesty's Army or Navy should be forced, through no fault of his own, to go into the workhouse. It has been said in another place that one man in a workhouse prevents ten men enlisting. I will not go so far as that, but there is no doubt that the knowledge that an old soldier or sailor is in the workhouse does prejudicially affect recruiting in the district in which that workhouse is. There is nothing, so far as I know, that these men dislike more than the idea of having to go into the workhouse, yet undoubtedly the smaller pensions which are granted by the Government are not sufficient to enable them in some instances to keep out of it. I should like to learn that His Majesty's Government had in contemplation a measure which would enable a sufficiently large minimum pension to be granted to those who have suffered in the service of the country to enable them at any rate to keep out of the workhouse. I am of opinion that this burden should fall on the Imperial Exchequer rather than on local rates, but if no Government measure is forthcoming, I think it is necessary that a minor measure of this kind should be introduced. I beg to move the Second Reading, and I trust your Lordships may be favourably disposed towards it.

Moved, that the Bill be now read 2ª.—(*The Marquess of Granby.*)

Lord LAMINGTON: My Lords, I rise for the purpose of moving the rejection of this Bill. I happened to be out of the House when the noble Marquess began his remarks, but I imagine that he referred to the fact that your Lordships had already disposed of a Bill this session dealing with the same object. In the first place, I protest against the Poor Law system of the country being attacked by nibbles. That is quite the wrong principle to go upon. If the Poor Law system is unsatisfactory, let the Government have an inquiry by a Royal Commission or some other body, but it should not be altered in this way by small Bills introduced from time to time. The noble Marquess expressed his admiration for those who had fought and suffered for their country. I am sure we are all agreed in thinking that the defenders of our country deserve the best treatment that can possibly be given to them, but I do not see why soldiers and sailors should be selected for favours above other classes of the community. If they suffer for their country, it is the duty of the War Office to see that they are properly rewarded; and, as a matter of fact, a wounded soldier receives a pension in proportion to his disablement. The Government are not at all backward in the endeavour to prevent such a man becoming a pauper. The hon. Member who introduced this Bill in the other House said it contained exactly the same principle as the Friendly Societies Bill. But there is the vital distinction, that the arguments in that case in favour of the Bill were founded on the fact that the Bill would encourage people who had observed habits of thrift on their own account. In this case, however, it is the Government who have exercised thrift for the men. Colonel Blundell said in the House of Commons that the Bill was brought forward with the general intention that a pensioner should receive the benefit of the thrift which was exercised for him, and at his expense, by the State during his service. Therefore a pensioner is in the same position as a member of a friendly society, with this distinction, that in his case the thrift was practised by the Government on his behalf, and not by the man himself. I have another supporter of my Amendment for the rejection of the Bill in Lord James of Hereford, who said, in moving the Second Reading of the Friendly Societies Bill—

> "I think this Bill (Friendly Societies Bill) has greater claims on your Lordships' consideration than any Bill which may be introduced for the exemption of Army and Navy pensioners, for that which is sought to be exempted in the Bill I now move is the result of a man's own voluntary savings."

The Poor Law system of this country is founded on the principle that every one is entitled to relief in distress, quite apart from his merits. A certain amount of disparagement was thrown on boards of guardians in the recent debate, but I think they are just as likely to show a kindly consideration to their fellow men as any of us in this House. I think, therefore, that we ought to adhere to the present principle, unless some more powerful arguments are brought forward. Not a single instance has been advanced that the present Poor Law regulations impose any hardships on soldiers; and certainly, if the proposal of the Bill is accepted the cost should fall upon the Exchequer rather than upon the rates, as it is entirely a matter of Imperial concern.

Amendment moved—

> "To leave out 'now' and to add at the end of the Motion 'this day three months.'"—(*Lord Lamington.*)

The Earl of WEMYSS: My Lords, I rise to support the rejection of this Bill. The one thing that your Lordships and Parliament should be careful about is how you in any way tamper with the Poor Law and its administration. If your Lordships will look back some seventy years to the state of England at the time when the Poor Law Commission was appointed you will find that through the lax administration of outdoor relief a state of demoralisation existed throughout the whole agricultural population which was really shocking. We read in the evidence that men said—

> "Damn work, curse work, blast work; why should I work when I can get 10s. from the rates and do nothing?"

That was the state of things which existed seventy years ago. We still have sentimental complaints of the harsh administration of the Poor Law, but I believe in the policy of being cruel to be kind, and that if the law, especially with regard to outdoor relief, is firmly administered poverty will decrease. If there is one man in England more than another who knows all about this question it is the able Secretary of the Charity Organisation Society, Mr. Loch. I wrote to him asking him if he would kindly send me his opinion with regard to this Bill so that I could read it to the House. I received an answer from the Assistant Secretary stating that Mr. Loch is out of town, and that practically this Bill is the same in principle as the other Bill which was introduced by my noble and learned friend Lord James. In a paper on the latter Bill Mr. Loch wrote—

> "There is no clause in the Bill repealing or amending the Act of Queen Elizabeth; yet in fact it is a partial repeal of that Act."

And he went on to say—

> "It may be desirable to reform the Poor Law, but it is hardly desirable to reform it in such a way as to extend materially the incidence of pauperism, and to create a large new class of privileged paupers. To create what is practically a new Poor Law by casual Amendments, based on side issues, cannot be other than injurious and unjust."

We hear of people objecting to go into the workhouse. About ten years ago I visited the workhouse of my own county. I found it charmingly situated on the banks of the river, and overlooking some beautiful woods. The only articles wanting were armchairs. We provided the inmates, who had been compelled hitherto to sit on benches in rows, with cheap armchairs, and then there was nothing whatever to complain of. A workhouse is by no means a penitentiary, as some people imagine. If the Poor Law is wrongly administered, if there is any serious complaint against it, let it be inquired into. We live in an inquiring age, and it may be desirable that a small Commission similar to the one which inquired into the state of the Poor Law seventy years ago, should be appointed to inquire into the whole question of the administration of the Poor Law and outdoor relief. Then we shall know whether a general measure for simplifying, and what is called making more humane, that administration is necessary.

On Question, whether "now" shall stand part of the Motion, resolved in the negative; and Bill to be read 2ª this day three months.

ELEMENTARY EDUCATION (AMENDMENT) BILL.

Read 3ª (according to Order), and passed.

LUNACY ACTS (AMENDMENT) LONDON BILL [H.L.].

Read 3ª (according to Order): Amendments (Privilege) made: Bill passed, and sent to the Commons.

PISTOLS BILL.

Amendments reported (according to Order), and Bill to be read 3ª to-morrow.

PUBLIC OFFICES (DUBLIN) BILL.

Second Reading (which stands appointed for this day) put off till to-morrow.

House adjourned at ten minutes before Six o'clock, till to-morrow, a quarter past Four o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Thursday, 16th July, 1903.

The House met at Two of the Clock.

UNOPPOSED PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

PROVISIONAL ORDERS BILL [LORDS] (STANDING ORDERS APPLICABLE THERETO COMPLIED WITH).

Mr. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, that, in the case of the following Bill, originating in the Lords, and referred on the First Reading thereof, the Standing Orders which are applicable thereto have been complied with, viz. :—

EDUCATION BOARD PROVISIONAL ORDER CONFIRMATION (LONDON) BILL [LORDS.]

Ordered, That the Bill be read a second time to-morrow.

PRIVATE BILLS (NO STANDING ORDERS APPLICABLE).

Mr. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, that, in the case of the following Bill, referred, pursuant to the Order of the House of the 10th day of July, no Standing Orders are applicable, viz. :—London School Board (Hilldrop Road Site) Bill.

Broadstairs Gas Bill, Hyde Corporation Bill, Leigh Corporation Bill. Lords' Amendments considered, and agreed to.

London, Brighton, and South Coast Railway Bill [Lords] (King's consent signified). Read the third time, and passed, with Amendments.

South Lancashire Tramways Bill [Lords]. Read the third time, and passed, with Amendments.

Carmarthenshire Electric Power Bill [Lords], Fife Electric Power Bill [Lords]; As amended, considered; to be read the third time.

Tramways Orders Confirmation (No. 1) Bill [Lords]; Copy ordered, " of Memorandum stating the nature of the proposals contained in the Provisional Orders included in the Tramways Orders Confirmation (No. 1) Bill [Lords]."—(*Mr. Bonar Law.*)

Chatham and District Light Railways Bill [Lords], Rochester Corporation Tramways and Improvements Bill [Lords]. Reported, with Amendments; Reports to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

PRIVATE BILLS (GROUP H).

SIR AUGUSTUS GODSON reported from the Committee on Group H of Private Bills: That, for the convenience of parties, they had adjourned till Tuesday next, at half-past eleven of the clock.

Report to lie upon the Table.

Willesden Urban District Council Bill [Lords]; Reported, with Amendments, from the Police and Sanitary Committee. Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.

That they have agreed to.

Pier and Harbour Provisional Orders (No. 4) Bill, with an Amendment.

Pier and Harbour Provisional Orders (No. 2) Bill; Pier and Harbour Provisional Orders (No. 3) Bill; Wood Green Urban District Council Bill; Baker Street and Waterloo Railway (Transfer) Bill, now Baker Street and Waterloo Railway Bill; Walker and Wallsend Union Gas Bill; Midland Great Western Railway of Ireland Bill, with Amendments.

Pier and Harbour Provisional Orders (No. 2) Bill; Pier and Harbour Provisional Orders (No. 3) Bill. Lords' Amendments to be considered To-morrow.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACTS (SPECIAL EXCEPTIONS—MEAL HOURS IN IRON AND STEEL FOUNDRIES IN SCOTLAND).

Copy presented, of Order, dated 14th July, 1903, made by the Secretary of State for the Home Department in pursuance of Section 40 (4) of The Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, extending the special exceptions as to meal hours to male young persons employed in iron and steel foundries in Scotland [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

CRIMINAL LAW AND PROCEDURE (IRELAND) ACT, 1887 (PROCLAMATION).

Copy presented, of a Proclamation, dated 14th July, 1903, revoking the several proclamations mentioned in the schedule thereto [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

ARMY (PHYSICAL CONDITION OF RECRUITS).

Copy presented, of Memorandum by the Director-General, Army Medical Service, on the physical unfitness of men offering themselves for enlistment in the Army [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

Paper laid upon the Table by the Clerk of the House—

CALEDONIAN CANAL.

Copy of Ninety-eighth Report of the Commissioners [by Act]; to be printed. [No. 259.]

TRADE (COLONIES AND UNITED KINGDOM).

Return ordered, "showing the Trade of the varions British Colonies and Possessions, inclusive of bullion and specie, with the United Kingdom, other British Possessions, and foreign countries during each of the years 1890–1900, in the following form:—

Imports.					Exports.				
British Colonies and Possessions.	From the United Kingdom.	From British Possessions.	From foreign countries.	From all countries.	To the United Kingdom.	To British Possessions.	To foreign countries.	To all countries.	British Colonies and Possessions.

—(*Mr. Fuller.*)

RIFLE RANGES.

Address for "Return of the number of Rifle Ranges in the United Kingdom, giving the situation, range, and number of targets available on each Range; the number of Government Ranges that have been closed during the last year and the number that have been opened; and the number and description of Ranges being constructed."—(*Mr. Warner.*)

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

Loan Fund Legislation in Ireland.

MR. DILLON (Mayo, E.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland why the present Government, which has been in office for eight years, has never made any attempt to pass a measure dealing with the Loan Fund system in Ireland containing provisions tending to secure more regular and business-like attention to their duties on the part of the trustees and treasurers of the Loan Fund Societies.

(*Answered by Mr. Wyndham.*) As already stated, the Government in 1900 introduced and passed into law a Bill framed to meet the most pressing of the difficulties of the Loan Fund system. The Act was admittedly a provisional measure, and if the Government, by further legislation, has been unable to complete the reform of the system, the hon. Member, with his experience of the time occupied in the passage during the past eight years of other and more important measures, should himself be able to supply an answer to his Question.

Alleged Assault on Mrs. Fitzgerald.

MR. WILLIAM ABRAHAM (Cork County, N.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland if he will inquire into the circumstances connected with an assault committed by Sergeant Shelley upon Mrs. Fitzgerald, a woman of advanced years, in Kildorrery on the 28th of June; what offence, if any, did Mrs. Fitzgerald commit; and why was the ordinary course of proceeding by summons departed from in this case.

(*Answered by Mr. Wyndham.*) On the date mentioned Mrs. Fitzgerald used abusive language in the public street. Sergeant Shelley requested her to desist. She threw herself on the ground and had to be removed by the police. For some time past she has indulged in similar misconduct and has been warned that persistence in it will lead to a prosecution.

Construction of the Chiromo and Blantyre Railway.

MR. WEIR (Ross and Cromarty): To ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign

Affairs whether he is now in a position to state when the Chiromo and Blantyre Railway will be commenced, what length of line is it proposed to construct, when is it expected to be finished, and what will be the cost per mile.

(*Answered by Lord Cranborne.*) According to a contract concluded on 31st December last between His Majesty's Government and the Shiré Highlands Railway Nyassaland Company, Limited, the line between Chiromo and Blantyre is to be commenced with reasonable dispatch and completed within five years from the above date. It is understood that materials for construction have already reached the Protectorate. The length of line between Chiromo and Blantyre is about eighty miles. I am unable to say what the cost per mile may be.

Trade of Somaliland, British East and Central Africa and Uganda.

Mr. JOHN ELLIS (Nottinghamshire, Rushcliffe): To ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs what were the figures of imports and exports for the year ended 31st March, 1903, for the Protectorates of Somaliland, British Central Africa, East Africa, and Uganda, distinguishing in each case, so far as may be, figures arising from administration or construction of public works and those due to natural trade; and what proportion of the import and export figures arises from trade with the British Isles on the one hand and other countries on the other.

(*Answered by Lord Cranborne.*) The figures for the East Africa Protectorate are shown in the Report by His Majesty's Commissioner which was presented to the House in June last (Africa, No. 6, pages 33–38). The Reports on the other Protectorates will be presented to the House as soon as they are available.

Grants-in-Aid to Somaliland, British East Africa, etc.

Mr. JOHN ELLIS: To ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs what sums have been paid out of the National Exchequer by way of grants-in-aid or otherwise to the Protectorates of Somaliland, British Central Africa, East Africa, and Uganda, respectively, during the financial year ended 31st March, 1903.

(*Answered by Lord Cranborne.*) Uganda, £135,000; British Central Africa, £50,000; East Africa, £244,000; East Africa, Supplementary, £69,600; Somaliland, £25,000.

Indian Irrigation Commission—Recommendations.

Mr. WEIR: To ask the Secretary of State for India, seeing that the Report of the Irrigation Commission will not be in the hands of Members until the end of the month, will he state briefly the most important recommendations contained in the Report.

(*Answered by Secretary Lord George Hamilton.*) No copy or abstract of the Report of the Irrigation Commission has yet reached the India Office, and I cannot therefore state what the chief recommendations are.

Increase of Deposits in Post Office Savings Bank in India.

Mr. WEIR: To ask the Secretary of State for India, seeing that accounts in the Post Office Savings Bank of India have increased from £145,628 in 1899–1900 to £425,911 in 1901–2, can he state the number of depositors by whom these accounts are held and the occupations followed by the bulk of the depositors.

(*Answered by Secretary Lord George Hamilton.*) The hon. Member's figures are incorrect. The balances at the credit of depositors amounted on 31st March 1900, to £6,431,000; on 31st March 1902, to £7,121,000. The classification of the depositors at the latter date, as given in the Report on the Post Office of India, was as follows: Class I. Professional — A. Having fixed income, 233,108; B. Having variable income, 58,130; Class II. Domestic, 151,204; Class III. Commercial, 32,065; Class IV. Agricultural, 12,387; Class V. Industrial, 27,450; Class VI. Indefinite, 352,349. Total, 866,693.

Capitalised Value of State Railways and Canals in India.

Mr. WEIR: To ask the Secretary of State for India, in view of a statement contained in paragraph 75 of the Indian Financial Statement for the current year to the effect that the capitalised value of State railways and canals at 25 years purchase of the net annual average revenue for the three years ending 31st March

1902, shows the capitalised value of these undertakings to be £264,065,000, will he indicate the value placed on canals as distinct from railways.

(*Answered by Secretary Lord George Hamilton.*) £41,387,000.

Indian Currency—Sovereigns and Gold Reserve.

SIR JOHN LENG (Dundee): To ask the Secretary of State for India whether the result of the inquiries addressed to the Government of India in March last will enable him now to state in round numbers how many sovereigns, British or Australian, have been paid into the Indian Treasuries for land revenue, Customs, or other fiscal payments, since those coins were made legal tender at the rate of fifteen rupees; also, for the same period, what number of sovereigns have been paid out at the same rate by the Departments for Public Works, and other local purchases of materials, for stores, salaries, interest, and other State obligations; what is now the total amount of currency reserves in gold held respectively in India and England; and what proportions of that amount consist of coins, bars, or other forms of that precious metal.

(*Answered by Secretary Lord George Hamilton.*) The Government of India have informed me that the information asked for in the first two clauses of the Question cannot be supplied, as no detailed record is kept of the nature of the transactions in the course of which the Government Treasuries receive or issue gold. I am, however, still in communication with the Government of India on the subject. The amount of gold held by the Government in India is £9,740,000, and it is practically all in the form of sovereigns. In England £4,110,000 2½ per cent. Consolidated Stock is held on account of the Gold Reserve Fund.

Area under Crops in India.

MR. WEIR: To ask the Secretary of State for India if he will state the cropped area of the various Provinces of India for the year 1901–2 compared with the previous year, and with the year 1891–2; and will he specify approximately the percentage under wheat and the other crops in each Province.

(*Answered by Secretary Lord George Hamilton.*)

Provinces.	Total Cropped Area.			Percentage of Area under Chief Crops in 1901–2.					
	1891–2. Acres.	1900–1901. Acres.	1901–2. Acres.	Wheat.	Rice.	Other Food Grains.†	Oilseeds.	Cotton, Jute, etc.	Other Crops.‡
Burmah . . .	7,832,000	11,835,000	11,694,000	0·2	7·07	14·0	7·2	1·3	6·6
Bengal . .	61,227,000	60,898,000	59,973,000	2·3	60·1	18·3	5·9	4·2	9·2
United Provinces	41,904,000	42,036,000	42,621,000	15·2	16·7	54·7	1·9	2·9	8·6
Punjab (including North - West Frontier Provinces) . .	21,409,000	28,570,000*	18,326,000*	33·7	3·9	39·7	3·6	5·0	14·1
Bombay and Sind	27,993,000	25,468,000	27,062,000	5·9	8·7	65·6	6·3	11·3	2·2
Central Provinces	17,201,000	16,210,000	17,244,000	15·2	26·3	39·9	9·8	6·1	2·7
Madras . .	24,308,000	27,850,000	29,740,000	·1	24·3	56·4	6·7	4·8	7·7
Berar . . .	6,676,000	6,820,000	7,033,000	4·0	·5	49·7	5·9	38·4	1·5
Minor Provinces .	2,415,000	5,275,000	5,390,000	—	68·3	6·6	5·7	1·1	18·3
	219,965,000	224,962,000	219,083,000	8·5	32·0	40·3	5·5	6·0	7·7

* Actually reaped areas, and excluding crop failures. † Principally millets and pulses.

‡ Includes sugar, tobacco, tea, fodder, opium, etc.

Motor-Car Transport in India.

Mr. WEIR: To ask the Secretary of State for India whether he is aware that experiments are being made with automobile cars for the purpose of conveying produce and merchandise between the various villages and stations in Bengal starting from Calcutta along the Grand Trunk Road; and will the Government of India call for a Report as to how far these experiments have succeeded.

(*Answered by Secretary Lord George Hamilton.*) I have no information on the subject. If the experiments are considered by the Government of India to be of importance they will doubtless see that all material information regarding them is collected by the local authorities.

Cunard Steamship Company and the New Zealand Mails.

Mr. ALFRED DAVIES (Carmarthen Boroughs): To ask the Postmaster-General if he is aware that the New Zealand mails were due and arrived in New York at ten o'clock on the morning of Saturday the 30th May, and the Postmaster of New York sent to the Cunard Steamship Company to ask if they would let their steamer "Campania," which was to leave the docks at 9 a.m. on that day, slacken speed in the river, and he would send a special tug with the mails, getting them on board by noon, and that the Cunard Steamship Company did not see their way to so act, although considerations of tide did not prevent, with the result that the mails had to remain in New York from Saturday till the following Wednesday; and if so, will he see if there can now be an arrangement with the Cunard steamship Company to provide for taking such mails on board under similar circumstances.

(*Answered by Mr. Austen Chamberlain.*) I am informed that if the "Campania" had waited for the New Zealand mail, as suggested, she would have been unable to cross the bar of New York Harbour until one o'clock or later, which, as the tide was ebbing, might have involved more risk than the circumstances justified, and might have necessitated delay for the next tide. The Cunard Company are not under contract with me for the conveyance of mails from New York to this country, but they have assured me that, when their New York agents can safely detain one of their homeward-bound steamers for the New Zealand mail, they will do so. I may add that I am informed that the Company's vessels have waited for these mails on more than one occasion, and have received the thanks of the agent for New Zealand at San Francisco for so doing.

Chinese Mails—Trans-Siberian Route.

Mr. LOUIS SINCLAIR (Essex, Romford): To ask the Postmaster-General whether, having regard to the fact that mails from Tientsin and other Chinese towns are sent to England in from twenty-four to twenty-six days by the Trans-Siberian route, whereas mails from England to those towns are sent by the Suez Canal route occupying from thirty-five to forty-five days, he will take an early opportunity of arranging for the mails from England to go by the Trans-Siberian route.

(*Answered by Mr. Austen Chamberlain.*) I am endeavouring to come to an arrangement with the Russian authorities to enable persons in this country to send correspondence to the Far East by the Trans-Siberian route.

Reduction of Light dues in the United States.

Sir THOMAS DEWAR (Tower Hamlets, St. George's): To ask the President of the Board of Trade, seeing that the charges made on British vessels entering United States ports are estimated to produce about £70,000 annually, and that it has recently been decided to reduce to the extent of 12½ per cent. the charge for light dues on all vessels entering British ports, can he see his way to communicate with the United States Government with a view to secure a compensating reduction in the charges made on British vessels entering United States ports.

(*Answered by Mr. Gerald Balfour.*) I will have the figures carefully gone into and consider in conjunction with the

Foreign Office whether any representations could usefully be made to that Government on the subject.

Total Value of Imports from Foreign Countries into British Possessions.

MR. HERBERT SAMUEL (Yorkshire, Cleveland): To ask the President of the Board of Trade if he will state what is the aggregrate value of the importation from foreign countries into the British colonies, dependencies, and protectorates, of commodities which are not produced in the United Kingdom or are exported from the United Kingdom to only a small extent; giving separately the figures for mineral oils, timber (including planks), metal ores, raw cotton, raw silk, tobacco (unmanufactured), sugar, coffee, wines, dried fruits, wheat, maize, rice, other agricultural and dairy products, and miscellaneous commodities.

(*Answered by Mr. Gerald Balfour.*) The information cannot be supplied in answer to a Question. If the hon. Member will put down a Return specifying the articles for which he desires the particulars mentioned in his Question I will consider how far the Return can be granted; but its preparation in any case will take a considerable time. In the meantime perhaps the hon. Member will consult Part XXV. of the Statistical Tables relating to the Colonial and other Possessions of the United Kingdom [Cd. 1324 of 1902].

Exports of Cotton Piece Goods in 1872 and 1902.

MR. RUNCIMAN (Dewsbury): To ask the President of the Board of Trade what is the length of cotton piece goods exported to foreign countries in 1872 and 1902 respectively.

(*Answered by Mr. Gerald Balfour.*) The cotton piece goods entered by the yard exported to foreign countries in 1872 and 1902 were as follows:—1872 – 2,205,000,000 yards; 1902–2,669,000,000. The figures for 1872 include exports to British colonies in cases in which the amounts were too small to be separately specified.

New Road from the Mall to Charing Cross—Date of Opening.

SIR HENRY FOWLER (Wolverhampton, E.): To ask the hon. Member for West Derbyshire, as representing the First Commissioner of Works, when the road from the Mall to Charing Cross will be opened for traffic.

(*Answered by Mr. Victor Cavendish.*) The First Commissioner fears that he cannot fix a definite date; the arrangements for the demolition of the houses in Spring Gardens are being made as rapidly as possible.

Punishment of Habitual Offenders—Amendment of Law.

MR. TALBOT (Oxford University): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his attention has been called to a recent charge of Mr. Justice Phillimore; and whether it is his intention, during the present session, to introduce legislation, such as was indicated by the learned Judge, for the amendment of the law as to the treatment of habitual offenders.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Akers Douglas*). I have seen reports of a statement made by Mr. Justice Phillimore on this subject, and I hope to be able shortly to introduce a Bill leading in the direction indicated by the learned Judge.

Private Executions—Extorted Confessions.

MR. H. D. GREENE (Shrewsbury): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the rules under the statute directing executions to take place privately within prisons permit any official to interrogate prisoners under sentence of death with a view to extort admissions or confessions; and, if so, whether he will consider the expediency of so altering the rules as to ensure that this proceeding will not be applied in such a manner as to cause unnecessary suffering to the condemned prisoner.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Akers Douglas.*) The relations between the chaplain and the prisoners under his spiritual care are a matter not dealt with, and hardly capable of being dealt with by statutory rules. In the case to which I take the hon. Member to refer, I have called for a report from the chaplain, and he informs me that Dougal had promised to make a true confession on the eve of his execution, but failed to do so. "As the last moment approached," the chaplain says, "my spiritual anxiety became intense. I prayed earnestly with him during the last quarter of an hour, during which he sobbed, but he seemed unable to unbend and make a confession. I knew not what to do more, so, under strong impulse, and quite on the inspiration of the moment, I made the strong appeal at the scaffold." While making every allowance for the chaplain's difficult position I think the incident is to be regretted, and I will endeavour to prevent a similar occurrence in the future.

COLONEL WYNDHAM MURRAY (Bath): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, in view of the proceedings which took place at the execution at Chelmsford, whether it is part of the duty of a prison chaplain to demand a confession from a criminal when actually on the scaffold.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Akers Douglas.*) I beg to refer the hon. and gallant Member to the full Answer which I have given on the same subject to the hon. Member for Shrewsbury.

Appointment of Prison Commissioner.

MR. TENNANT (Berwickshire): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when it is proposed to appoint a Prison Commissioner in the room of Lieut.-Col. Garsia; and whether, in the selection of Colonel Garsia's successor, special regard will be had to experience in the Prison Department.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Akers Douglas.*) I propose to submit an appointment for the King's approval in due course; and the hon. Member may rest assured that before doing so I shall give due weight to all proper considerations.

Vivisection Experiments—Presence of Government Inspector.

DR. SHIPMAN (Northampton): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many experiments under Certificate C (Cruelty to Animals Act, 1876) have been witnessed by an inspector during the whole or part of the time of the experiment.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Akers Douglas.*) No experiments under certificate C (which relates to experiments under anæsthetics in illustration of lectures) were reported to me as having been witnessed by an inspector in the year 1902.

Violation of Conditions of Vivisection Licences.

DR. SHIPMAN: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if he will state in how many instances, since he has been in office, the conditions of the licence issued under the Cruelty to Animals Act, 1876, have been violated; whether any, and, if so, what steps have been taken to enforce the penal clauses of the said Act in any such instances.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Akers Douglas.*) I am not aware of any such instances other than the four mentioned in the last Annual Report under the Act. All these were trifling departures, by inadvertence, from the strict letter of the law, and did not call for criminal proceedings.

DR. SHIPMAN: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on what authority is it stated by the inspector, in the Return (Cruelty to Animals Act, 1876) just issued, that only four irregularities have occurred during the course of the year.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Akers Douglas.*) The statement is made on the authority of the inspector as the result of his visits and his constant communication with the licence holders.

Illness at Norwood Poor Law Schools.

SIR JOHN GORST (Cambridge University): To ask the President of the Local Government Board whether his attention has been called to recent outbreaks of measles and whooping cough, and excessive mortality from other causes, amongst the children of the Norwood Poor Law Schools, and to a report made on this subject by Dr. Priestly, the medical officer of health of Lambeth, in which the aggregation of children is condemned; whether any additional expenditure on the schools by the Lambeth Board of Guardians has been sanctioned by the Local Government Board, and to what amount; and whether Dr. Priestly's report can be published as a Parliamentary Paper.

(*Answered by Mr. Walter Long.*) My attention has been called to this matter, and I have seen the report made by Dr. Priestly. I have been in communication with the guardians on the subject. A committee appointed by them has been investigating the matter, and I am now expecting their final report. On receipt of it I shall consider what action it may be necessary to take. I informed my right hon. friend, in reply to a Question by him on 29th June last,† of the expenditure which had been sanctioned in connection with these schools. No further expenditure has been sanctioned by me. I do not think that Dr. Priestly's report should be issued as a Parliamentary Paper at the present time.

New Poor Law Schools for Poplar.

SIR JOHN GORST: To ask the President of the Local Government Board, whether the Local Government Board has sanctioned the expenditure by the Poplar Board of Guardians of £150,000 in building a new Poor Law school at Hutton, near Shenfield, accommodating 900 children, who are to be housed in blocks containing sixty and thirty children each.

(*Answered by Mr Walter Long.*) I have approved plans for the erection by the Poplar Guardians of new buildings to accommodate 624 children. The estimated cost of the buildings is £144,725, but I have not yet authorised the expenditure. The approved plans are for two schools. The boys' school to consist of five blocks for sixty children each, and the girls' and infants' school of ten blocks for thirty children each. In addition twenty-four elder girls are to be accommodated in the matron's block.

Fiscal Inquiry—Decrease in Agricultural Population.

MR. D. A. THOMAS (Merthyr Tydvil): To ask the President of the Local Government Board whether his Department is engaged in the fiscal inquiry; and if he has any official information showing the cause of the reduction of 17,522 in the number of families engaged in agriculture between 1821 and 1831, and of 35,068 adult male persons employed in agriculture between 1831 and 1841.

(*Answered by Mr. Walter Long.*) My Department are not directly concerned with the inquiry referred to, although, of course, they will furnish any information in their power that may be required in connection with it. I have no information as to the particular matter alluded to in the last part of the Question.

Annual Leave of Customs Assistant Clerks.

MR. CLAUDE HAY (Shoreditch, Hoxton): To ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether he is aware that in those branches of the Customs Department where assistant clerks are employed, the clerks on the grade next above the assistant clerks are allowed thirty-two days annual leave; and that in the case of absence on leave or other causes of these clerks their duties are performed by assistant clerks in receipt of checking allowances who are granted only fourteen days annual leave; and, if so, whether he will consider the possibility of granting an increase of leave from fourteen to eighteen days, as was recently recommended to the Treasury by the Commissioners of Customs.

(*Answered by Mr. Elliot.*) I have nothing to add to my answer of the 6th instant on this subject.†

Irish Land Bill—Bankrupt Owners.

MR. T. W. RUSSELL (Tyrone, S.): To ask Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland whether, in the case of a bankrupt limited owner whose rents were collected up to 1894 by the English Court of Bankruptcy, the bankrupt's debts being afterwards paid by an insurance company, who now collect the rents of the estate, the limited owner or the insurance company will have the right to sell under the Land Bill.

(*Answered by Mr. Atkinson.*) This Question could not possibly be answered without a full knowledge of the facts.

---

† See (4) *Debates*, cxxiv., 775.

† See (4) *Debates*, cxxiv., 1382.

The insurance company may be, and possibly are, mortgagees in possession, when they could sell.

Improved Landing Facilities at Kells, Co. Kerry.

MR. BOLAND (Kerry, S.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether the Congested Districts Board has given a favourable consideration to the application addressed to them by the fishermen of Kells, Co. Kerry, for the improvement of landing facilities for their boats; and, if so, whether the suggested works will be proceeded with.

(*Answered by Mr. Wyndham.*) The application was considered by the Congested Districts Board at its meeting today. The Board regrets it cannot at present undertake the works in question. At Roads, which is only two miles distant, the Board is expending a considerable sum in carrying out improvements to the landing place.

Land Purchase Acts—Redemption of Tithe Rent-charges.

MR. BUTCHER (York): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been called to the fact that on the sales of estates under the Land Purchase Acts tithe rent-charges which are payable to the State are usually redeemed at 22½ years purchase, whereas tithe rent-charges which are payable to private owners are usually redeemed at 20 years purchase; and whether he will give the reason why this distinction should be made.

(*Answered by Mr. Wyndham.*) The number of years purchase for the redemption of tithe rent-charge payable to the State has been fixed by the Treasury under the 9th section of the Tithe Rent-charge Act of 1900, while the number of years purchase for the redemption of the rent-charge payable to private owners has been fixed by the Land Commission for the reasons given in the judgment of Mr. Justice Meredith in Fitzgerald Estate, 1 L.R.I (1902), p. 444, to which I beg to refer my hon. and learned friend.

Car Fare Paid by Police from Letterfrack to Clifden.

MR. O'MALLEY (Galway, Connemara): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that the car fare paid by the police from Letterfrack to Clifden it now 15s. per journey, whereas this fare until quite recently was 6s. per journey; and if he will state why the extra charge is now being paid.

(*Answered by Mr. Wyndham.*) No change has been made in the fare (7s.) charged to the police for this journey.

Married Non-Commissioned Officers and Officers Detached from their Regiments —Money in Lieu of Rations.

MR. FIELD (Dublin, St. Patrick): To ask the Financial Secretary to the War Office whether he is aware that the married non-commissioned officers and non-commissioned officers detached from their regiments are not allowed to receive money in lieu of rations, although warrant married officers are permitted this option; and whether he will cause inquiries to be made with a view to the removal of this dissimilarity of treatment, having regard to the loss and inconvenience experienced by the non-commissioned officers referred to.

(*Answered by Lord Stanley.*) It is more than doubtful if this grant would be of real benefit to the men mentioned, as they could hardly get better value by retail purchase than they get by the supply of rations in kind which are provided under a large contract. Further, the General Officer Commanding has considerable latitude for dealing with special cases under the allowance regulations. There does not appear, therefore, to be any good reason for incurring this extra public expenditure.

Return Home of Regiments who have Served through the whole of the South African War.

Sir ALFRED HICKMAN (Wolverhampton, W.): To ask the Secretary of State for War whether he can state how much longer the regiments which have gone through the whole of the war will remain in South Africa; when those regiments that have been three and a-half years under canvas will get into barracks; and whether he will arrange for wives, who have been separated from their husbands for nearly four years, to go out to them.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Brodrick.*) The whole question of the relief of regiments is being carefully considered. Hutments are being built as rapidly as possible to accommodate the force. It is necessary to house the troops before building married quarters, but every effort is being made to meet the difficulty as promptly as possible.

Gordon Highlanders Band at Southport.

MR. MARSHALL HALL (Lancashire, Southport): To ask the Secretary of State for War by whose authority the band and pipers of the 1st Battalion Gordon Highlanders were advertised to give a performance (by kind permission of the colonel and officers of the regiment) on the pier at Southport, on Sunday 21st June last; and at whose instigation, and by whose authority, the performance was stopped after the band and pipers had actually arrived at Southport.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Brodrick.*) The Commander-in-Chief gave the orders for stopping the performance by the band because it was brought to his notice that gate money was to be charged for admission to the pier on which the band was to play. The Commander in-Chief, while anxious to allow all reasonable facilities for recreation, is of opinion that military bands should not be allowed to accept engagements for profit on Sunday.

General and Sugar Exports from West Indian Colonies.

MR. LOUGH (Islington, W.): To ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies what is the value of the total exports and sugar exports, and what is the percentage of sugar exports to the total, from each of the West Indian Colonies for the year ended 31st December, 1902, in continuation of the Table for the year 1896, given on page 5 of the Report of the Royal Commission to the West Indies, or for the last year that is available.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Chamberlain.*) The following Return has been prepared with the object of affording the information asked for:—

WEST INDIES.

Table showing in thousands of pounds the values of the exports of sugar (including sugar products*) in comparison with the total exports of colonial produce for the year 1901.

Colony.	Total Exports of Colonial Produce.	Exports of Sugar.	Percentage of Sugar Exports to Total Exports.
Jamaica (for the year ending 31st March, 1902) - - - - - - - -	1,824	261	14 per cent.
British Guiana (for the year ending 31st March, 1902) - - - - - - -	1,661	1,203	72 per cent.
Trinidad and Tobago (for the year ending 31st March, 1902) - - - -	1,554	512	33 per cent.
Barbados - - - - - - -	744	710	95 per cent.
Grenada - - - - - - -	301	—	—
St. Lucia - - - - - - -	71	49	69 per cent
St. Vincent - - - - - -	50	11	21 per cent.
Antigua - - - - - - -	107	101	94 per cent.
St. Kitts—Nevis - - - - -	113	109	97 per cent.
Dominica - - - - - - -	65	3	4 per cent.
Montserrat - - - - - -	11	5	49 per cent.

* *i.e.,* molasses and rum, and, in the case of Trinidad, "Angostura Bitters" also.

Reprints of Discussions on Preferential Tariffs at Colonial Conferences.

MR. FREEMAN THOMAS (Hastings): To ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies if he will authorise a reprint to be made of the discussions at the Colonial Conferences of 1887, 1894, 1897, and 1902, so far as they refer to preferential tariffs, and of the Despatches relating thereto.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Chamberlain.*) In so far as the discussions at the various Conferences have been made public they are already available to Members in the Parliamentary Papers which have been laid from time to time, and their republication seems therefore to be unnecessary.

Merchandise Marks Act and Foreign Imports into the Colonies.

MR. D. A. THOMAS: To ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether in view of the fact stated in the introductory Memorandum to Parliamentary Paper [C. 8449], that a considerable proportion of the apparent increase in foreign importations is attributed in most of the colonies to the effect of the Merchandise Marks Act, he proposes to amend or to repeal that measure.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Chamberlain.*) The Memorandum to which the hon. Member refers did not state that the measure in question had proved injurious to British industries. The question of the policy of repealing is one for the Board of Trade to consider.

British Locomotives for Canada.

THE MASTER OF ELIBANK (Edinburgh, Midlothian): To ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether, in view of the recent successful competition in Canada of British made locomotives, he will request the High Commissioner for Canada to obtain detailed particulars of the tenders and contracts in question.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Chamberlain.*) As I stated in reply to a Question in the House on Tuesday,† the locomotives were purchased by the Canadian Pacific Railway, not by the Canadian Government, and I have no claim whatever to ask them to disclose the particulars desired. It is, of course, open to the hon. Member to ask the Canadian Pacific Railway direct for the information he requires.

QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE.

The Cape Ragging Scandal.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL (Donegal, S.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether he is aware that two of the officers tried by Court-martial with reference to the incident at the Mount Nelson Hotel, Cape Town, while under constructive arrest pending the holding of that Court-martial, and after they had given their word of honour not to appear in any place of public amusement, were present at the races at Ascot; and, if so, will he state what are the names of these officers; and what action, if any, has been taken by the War Office authorities for this conduct.

*THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (MR. BRODRICK, Surrey, Guildford): Will the hon. Member kindly refer to my reply to a similar Question put by my hon. friend the Member for East Finsbury on the 6th instant.†

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL asked what were the names of the officers, and if any disciplinary action had been taken.

*MR. BRODRICK: Disciplinary action has been taken, but I do not think it necessary to go into details.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL: I must press for the names. Has not one of the officers been gazetted a major?

*MR. BRODRICK: I must really decline to be cross-examined on a Departmental question of discipline in which the Commander-in-Chief has taken action.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL: Was not Captain Williams one of the men, and has he not been gazetted major —— [Cries of "Order."]

MR. SPEAKER: The right hon. Gentleman has declined to reply. It will be open to the hon. Member to comment upon that later.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL: If I have an opportunity.

MR. FLAVIN (Kerry, N.): Cannot the right hon. Gentleman say "Yes" or "No?"

The Case of Lieutenant Prior.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War what course, if any, he proposes to take with regard to the conviction and fine at the Marlborough Street Police-Court of Lieutenant Prior, one of the seven officers recently tried and acquitted by Court-martial; and whether his attention has been directed to the observations of the police magistrate, that it was painful in the extreme to be called on to say that he disbelieved on his oath the statement of a British officer, as he was accustomed to look on the word of a British officer as sacred.

---

† See page 571.

† See (4) *Debates*, cxxiv., 1386.

*MR. BRODRICK: My attention has been called to the case in question, and to the observations of the magistrate. The Adjutant-General informs me this morning that Lieutenant Prior has tendered his resignation, but that he will be informed that if he does not take measures to prove his innocence of the grave imputations made against him, it will be necessary to consider his removal from the Army.

Alleged Mock Court-Martial on the "Staffordshire."

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether he is aware of the trial by mock Court-martial on, and the treatment by twelve officers of, a subaltern in the transport "Staffordshire," on the voyage to the Cape on New Year's Eve; and, if so, will he state what action he proposes to take in the matter.

*MR. BRODRICK: Nothing is known at the War Office of this matter.

Porthcawl Rifle Range.

MR. FULLER (Wiltshire, Westbury): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether it is proposed to use the Porthcawl Rifle Range for field firing; and, if so, whether he can state the artillery units that are likely to use it.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO THE WAR OFFICE (Lord STANLEY, Lancashire, Westhoughton): This range will be used for field firing, but not by Royal Artillery.

North Devon Volunteers—Camp Allowances.

MR. SOARES (Devonshire, Barnstaple): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether he is aware that there is this year a reduction in the number of recruits for the Volunteer forces in North Devon, and that there is dissatisfaction amongst the Volunteers with the rate of the pay allowed to them whilst in camp, as compared with the pay now granted to the Imperial Yeomanry; and whether he can see his way to grant an increase of pay for the time the Volunteers are in camp during the coming training in August.

*MR. BRODRICK: The hon. Member has been misinformed. So far from there having been any decrease there has been a large increase of recruits in every Devon Volunteer Corps except one, where there was a decrease of five men as compared with 1902. There would appear to be no reason for special treatment of the Devon Volunteers.

South African Garrison—Linked-Battalion System.

SIR CHARLES DILKE (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War if it is his intention to volunteer on the War Office Vote a statement as to the policy to be pursued in reference to the forces in South Africa and the linked battalion system.

MR. BRODRICK: I am quite ready to make a statement as regards the forces in South Africa, and any other questions which may be raised on the War Office Vote.

SIR CHARLES DILKE: Does the right hon. Gentleman bear in mind the fact that the Prime Minister early in the session promised a statement on this subject before the end of the session.

MR. BRODRICK: Yes, and I have no doubt that the question will be raised on the War Office Vote to-night. I can then deal with it. That will be the more convenient course.

The Condemned Army Rations.

*MR. KEIR HARDIE (Merthyr Tydvil): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether at any time since 1899 rations supplied for the use of the Army by any of the firms named in the recent Report from Pretoria were condemned; and, if so, who were the firms, the quantities condemned, the reason for their being condemned, and whether the rations so condemned were destroyed or returned to the contractor.

LORD STANLEY: No meat and vegetable rations supplied during the late war by any of the firms named in the Report were condemned on analysis in this country as unfit for the use of the troops in South Africa—but a large number of the so-called emergency rations were condemned — and the contractor has been required to make them good. The responsibility of the same contractor on a further consignment is under consideration.

*MR. KEIR HARDIE asked whether any of the rations condemned were supplied by any of the contracting firms mentioned in the Report from Pretoria.

LORD STANLEY: Yes.

*MR. KEIR HARDIE: Will you give the names?

MR. WEIR (Ross and Cromarty): Name, name.

LORD STANLEY: The emergency rations were supplied by Messrs. Maconochie.

*MR. KEIR HARDIE: Has any further information on this matter been received from South Africa?

LORD STANLEY: No, Sir; I have just been informed that no telegram has yet been received at the War Office.

The Fiscal Inquiry.

MR. BLACK (Banffshire): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether, in view of the fact that upon 21st April, 1903, the British Ambassador in Berlin made an intimation to the German Government to the effect that he believed that, in certain events, His Majesty's Government would impose retaliatory duties on German goods coming into this country, he will say whether this statement was made with the sanction of His Majesty's Government or is now adopted by it; and, if so, what is the need for further inquiry.

THE PRIME MINISTER AND FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Mr. A. J. BALFOUR, Manchester, E.): I have read the paragraph in Sir F. Lascelles' despatch, of which the hon. Member gives an abbreviated version. I quite agree with the paragraph in its original form. It expresses the belief of our Ambassador, which I also share, and seems to point to the necessity of inquiry rather than the reverse.

MR. ALFRED DAVIES (Carmarthen Boroughs): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury, in view of some of the results of the inquiry into a possible change of our fiscal system being laid before the House previously to the end of the present session, whether he will state the mode in which such inquiry is being held or will be held.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I have nothing to add to what I have already said in answer to similar Questions.

MR. ALFRED DAVIS: I have not heard the right hon. Gentleman answer any Question as to the mode of inquiry.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I am not aware that the Questions have been about anything else.

German Trade with Canada.

MR. BLACK: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies what was the amount of German exports to Canada in 1897, as compared with the amount in 1902, as also the amount of Canadian exports to Germany in the same years; and if he will estimate the total extra duty paid on Canadian exports to Germany in 1902, as compared with what would have been paid had Germany retained Canada as entitled to most-favoured-nation treatment.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES (Mr. J. CHAMBERLAIN Birmingham, W.): The value of German exports to Canada for home consumption in the official year 1897 amounted to $6,493,368, and in 1902 to $10,919,994, of which the value of sugar amounted to $2,390,239 in 1897, and to $3,655,570 in 1902. The value of the exports of Canadian produce to Germany in 1897 was $764,589, and in 1902 $1,298,654. The Canadian official year terminates on 30th June. It is impossible to form an estimate of the amount of the extra duty actually paid on Canadian produce as compared with what would have been paid if Canada had received most-favoured-nation treatment in Germany.

MR. BLACK: Has the inquiry not got that length yet?

[No answer was returned.]

Hong-Kong Post Office.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies if he will state the cause of the delay in the erection of a new post office at Hong-Kong.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: Designs for the new Post Office were called for on the 5th December last and competitors were given to 31st March last to send in their designs. It will obviously take some time to make a final selection; and I do not think that there has been any undue delay in proceeding with this work.

Governorship of Hong-Kong.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether, in view of the approaching termination of the appointment of the present Governor of Hong-Kong and the Imperial importance of the colony in its relation to China, will he consider the expediency of appointing a governor of wide experience to succeed the present officer administering the colony.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: Sir H. Blake's appointment does not expire till November, 1904. It is always my desire in recommending the appointment of a Governor for any colony to endeavour to secure the services of a gentleman of experience.

Cable between Ceylon and the Cocos Islands.

MR. FLOWER (Bradford, W.): On behalf of the hon. Member for Hythe, I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether he is now in a position to announce the conclusion of the arrangements for the laying of the spur cable connecting Ceylon with Cocos Islands.

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA (Earl PERCY, Kensington, S.): The reply is in the negative.

Cairo Lunatic Asylum.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, in view of Lord Cromer's statement that the lunatic asylum at Cairo is wholly inadequate to meet the requirements of the country, will he state how many patients this asylum will accommodate, and when it is proposed to erect a new asylum.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR (for Lord CRANBORNE): I have no information subsequent to the statement in Lord Cromer's Report. The hon. Gentleman will have observed that Lord Cromer states that it is hoped that this defect will be remedied when money becomes available.

MR. WEIR: Will the right hon. Gentleman obtain information as to the latter part of the Question?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I do not think that that is necessary, but if the hon. Gentleman will put down another Question I will see what can be done.

British Trade with Roumania.

MR. HOULT (Cheshire, Wirrall): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he has been advised by the British Minister at Bukarest that the German Government is about to make a new treaty of commerce with Roumania; whether he is aware that German trade has secured substantial advantages at the expense of British trade; that in five years the imports of British manufactured cotton goods have fallen from 75 per cent. of the whole to 49 per cent., and that British machinery, tin plates, jute tissues, bags, cast iron, and other articles are being ousted from the market; and, if so, will he say what steps are being taken to safeguard British trade interests.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR (for Lord CRANBORNE): I understand the Roumanian Government are engaged in reconsidering their Customs tariff, but we have no reason to suppose that a special treaty with Germany is being negotiated, or that there is any intention of granting German trade substantial advantages at our expense. I am aware that there has been a falling off in certain branches of British trade in Roumania, including the commodities mentioned by the hon. Member. Communications have passed between His Majesty's Minister at Bukarest and the Roumanian Government with a view to safeguard British trade interests.

Government Departments and Trade.

MR. HOULT: I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he can now announce the complete formation of the Committee appointed to consider the position and duties of the various Government Departments, with the view of consolidating the commercial and trade interests of the country in one Department, in view of the fact that it is over four months since the inquiry was promised.

*THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER (Mr. RITCHIE, Croydon): The Committee has been completed by the addition of the name of Mr. Emmott, Member for Oldham. I hope the Committee will commence their work at once and that the inquiry will not be a long one.

Post Office Wages—Committee of Inquiry.

MR. NANNETTI (Dublin, College Green): I beg to ask the Postmaster-General if evidence regarding trippage allowances on travelling post offices would be accepted at the proposed Committee of Inquiry into the wages of postal employees.

THE POSTMASTER GENERAL (Mr. AUTSEN CHAMBERLAIN, Worcestershire, E.) No, Sir. The inquiry proposed is into the normal rates of wages of the classes concerned. When these are fixed it will be for the Postmaster-General to settle, with the concurrence of the Treasury, what special allowances are required to cover exceptional duties.

Cable Charges between India and China.

MR. FLOWER: On behalf of the hon. Member for Hythe, I beg to ask the Postmaster-General if he would use his best endeavours to obtain some alleviation of the cable charges between India and China, commensurate with the reductions recently announced between the United Kingdom and China.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: I have communicated with the cable company concerned, and am informed that, in view of the recent reductions to which the hon. Member refers and of others made by the company during the last few years, which have resulted in a diminished revenue, the company are unable to make any further reductions at present.

Lord Clanricarde's Tenants.

MR. ROCHE (Galway, E): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that Lord Clanricarde has recently served notices to quit on tenants at Derrygoolin, Woodford; if so, will he state the amount of rent due on date of service; also, if rent had been demanded; and, if not, why were tenants served.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND (Mr. WYNDHAM, Dover): Yes, Sir. Three notices to quit were served. A half-year's rent (something over £3) was due in each case. Payment had not been demanded before service. No cause was assigned for the issue of the notices. Upon application being made by the landlord for ejectment decrees, founded upon the notices to quit, it will be open to the tenants to apply for a stay of proceedings.

Innishlyre Harbour.

DR. AMBROSE (Mayo, W.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he has received a copy of the resolution of the Westport harbour Commissioners, in which they state that, seeing that they are the local authority within whose jurisdiction Innishlyre harbour is to be built, they ought to be consulted as to the most suitable spot for the harbour; and whether he will see that they are consulted by the engineers.

MR. WYNDHAM: Yes, Sir; the resolution has been received. The Harbour Commissioners will be consulted.

Sligo Extra Police Cost.

MR. O'DOWD (Sligo, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that the Government have applied to the Sligo County Council for the sum of

£1,500 to cover the cost of extra police stationed in the southern division of that county during the past two years; and whether, in view of the fact that it was owing to the action of the grand jury and against the protests of the County Council this expenditure has been incurred, he will devise some means by which the ratepayers may be relieved from the payment of this tax.

MR. WYNDHAM: I have called for a report on the facts, but have not yet received it. Perhaps the hon. Member will repeat the Question on Monday.

Marquess of Ely's Estate.

MR. T. W. RUSSELL (Tyrone, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether such an estate as that of the Marquess of Ely, in the counties of Fermanagh and Wexford, now in the English Court of Chancery, can be sold under the Land Bill; and, if not, will he provide for such sales being made where the owner desires to sell.

MR. WYNDHAM: I am conferring with the Lord Chancellor and Lord Advocate. The question, if a satisfactory solution can be found, is one that can be dealt with in another place.

Irish Evicted Tenants.

MR. DELANY (Queen's Co., Ossory): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether there is any provision in the Land Bill to secure that the consideration of the claims of the evicted tenants shall receive priority in the proceedings of the Estates Commission.

MR. WYNDHAM: The Bill contains no such provision.

Royal Commission on the War.

MR. PIRIE (Aberdeen, N.): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether, seeing that it is practically two months since the Royal Commission on the War completed taking evidence, he will ascertain and state when their Report will be published; will he consider the desirability of this being done so as to give sufficient time for debate before the end of the session; and will he give a day for that purpose.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: The Royal Commission are completing their proceedings as rapidly as possible, and hope to be able to present their Report at an early date.

MR. PIRIE: Will it be before the close of the session?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I rather gather that will be so, but I can give no pledge or promise.

Holiday Scheme in the Dublin Post Office.

MR. NANNETTI: I beg to ask the Postmaster-General whether his attention has been called to the fact that a new leave scheme, based on an announcement made in the official circular 15th March, 1898, had been introduced this year in the Dublin sorting office; whether he is aware that this circular stated that the staff were to understand that the success of the scheme depended on their own co-operation, and that the Postmaster-General and the Secretary to the Treasury would not feel justified in sanctioning its permanent adoption unless assured that they had the co-operation of the staff; and, seeing that the majority of the Dublin sorting office staff was in favour of the scheme referred to, and that the feelings of the staff were not taken when the new scheme was being drafted for operation in the Dublin sorting office, will he state what steps he proposes to take.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: The matter referred to by the hon. Member received my personal attention. The majority of the class of sorting clerks and telegraphists at Dublin was in favour of the scheme, and the scheme has accordingly been adopted.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN (Stirling Burghs): I wish to ask whether the right hon. Gentleman can now make a statement, or, if not, when he can do so, as to the probable course of business for the remainder of the session.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: My review of the outstanding obligations in regard to legislation for the remainder of the session will come, I think, better when I move the suspension of the Twelve o'clock Rule, the date for which is approaching. It will probably be in the course of next week. As regards the immediate business before us, the Irish Land Bill is down for Report to-morrow as the first order, and from all I can learn we shall be able, I think, to have the good fortune to finish that stage during the sitting. In that event I propose to take on Monday the Scottish Licensing Bill, the Employment of Children Bill, and the Naval Works Bill, and other business on Monday. I contemplate taking the Third Reading of the Land Bill on Tuesday.

MR. JOHN REDMOND (Waterford): Will the right hon. Gentleman consider whether the Irish Estimates could be taken on Monday. We have had no opportunity of discussing them this session.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: That is the first time the suggestion has been made to me. I will consider it, and the House will therefore regard what I first stated as to Monday as subject to alteration in consequence of the appeal of the hon. Member.

MR. LOUGH (Islington, W.): The suspension of the Twelve o'clock Rule is apparently to be proposed at a much earlier date this session than in previous sessions.

MR A. J. BALFOUR: The hon. Member may rest assured that I have no desire to suspend the Rule prematurely. My only object is that we may arrive at the prorogation somewhere about the usual date. It certainly will not be done in any spirit of levity.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: I hope that such a measure as the Sugar Convention Bill will not be taken under the Twelve o'clock Rule. This is a new measure, not the worn-out fag-end of a controversy; it is perfectly new matter, and the suspension of the Twelve o'clock Rule ought not to be put in operation with regard to it.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I appreciate the spirit of that remark, but I must remind the right hon. Gentleman that the essence of the Bill was discussed last session. (Cries of "No, no.") I perfectly recognise that the House desires to discuss the Second Reading, and I certainly shall put the Bill down as the first order.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: I was referring rather to the end than the commencement of the sitting. We do not want the discussion to be prolonged to three or four o'clock in the morning.

MR. WINSTON CHURCHILL (Oldham): When will it be put down?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: It would be premature for me to make any arrangement for the discussion on the Second Reading of the Bill until I know how many Members desire to make their views heard, and what is the degree of novelty and variety in the speeches likely to be made.

MR. JAMES LOWTHER (Kent, Thanet): I suppose we may take it that no fresh Bills will be brought on for discussion after twelve o'clock.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: Of course it is not intended to introduce any new Bills under the Twelve o'clock Rule likely to lead to controversy, but there are some measures which are uncontroversial which might be introduced. It would be, I will not say a Parliamentary outrage, but a strong measure to introduce Bills under the Rule which are controversial.

MR. T. W. RUSSELL: Is it proposed to star any private Members' Bills?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: This is another matter which ought to be deferred until I move the suspension of the Twelve o'clock Rule.

SUPPLY [17TH ALLOTTED DAY].

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[MR. J. W. LOWTHER (Cumberland, Penrith) in the Chair.]

ARMY ESTIMATES, 1903-4.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a sum, not exceeding £331,500, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the Charge for the Salaries and Miscellaneous Charges of the War Office, which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1904."

*MR. PIRIE (Aberdeen, N.) moved to reduce the Vote by £100, his object being to call attention to the failure to carry out proposed schemes of reform in the Army. He regretted that under the political circumstances of the hour Army matters were receiving but secondary consideration, with the result that the Minister for War had been enabled to carry on his supposed reforms free from that criticism which should have been bestowed upon them. He had always felt that those schemes were not adapted for the country—were not wanted; and that the right hon. Gentleman had placed before the country an unworkable and extravagant scheme. The condition of the War Office at the present moment constituted a great national danger. It was a matter of regret and surprise to him not to see the right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Bristol in his place that night. They could not forget the unprecedented attacks which the right hon. Gentleman, as an ex-Cabinet Minister, last winter made with regard to the administration of the War Office, as did also the late Minister of Agriculture. It was then said that what was wanted was a drastic reform of the War Office, and the right hon. Gentleman went on to say that "this would never be obtained until they removed all those outside influences which now interfered with the management of the Army and with the selection for appointments and promotions—interference which would not be tolerated in any well organised Department of the Civil Service"; whilst the language of the late Mr. Hanbury was even stronger and more direct. When such charges were made he held very strongly that the confidence of the public in the Army must be sadly impaired and what was even a greater, if not the greatest, asset any Army could possess, the confidence of the Army officers themselves in an impartial system of justice must also be very much at stake. These charges of undue favouritism, remained practically unanswered to this day. The only reply he had heard put forward by the Secretary of State for War, was that officers were "the architects of their own careers," while Lord Roberts had merely recommended the Sandhurst cadets not to believe all "the nonsense they read in the newspapers." That surely was not very respectful language for the Commander-in-Chief to use towards the utterances of an ex-Cabinet Minister and of the late Minister of Agriculture, both of whom must have been behind the scenes and must have spoken with full knowledge and a sense of their responsibility, and in his opinion the neglect to meet such a charge was discreditable in the highest degree, both to the Secretary of State and Commander in-Chief.

Now, in the remarks he had to make he wished to say, as he had said before, that he made no attack on any individual officer, but only on those responsible for administration, viz., the Secretary of State and Commander-in-Chief. He intended to ask questions about certain appointments that had been made, in the hope of getting some explanation from those who were responsible for the appointments and promotion of officers. For instance, he wished to know whether there were not men in the Army more qualified by experience, service, and attainments, than General Sir Ian Hamilton to hold the important post of Quartermaster-General. He maintained that the advancement in the career of this officer had been due to personal service to the Commander-in-Chief. For the ten years ending 1882 he was a regimental subaltern, and since then he had seen no regimental service. He was A.D.C. to Lord Roberts from 1882–1890, who then appointed him to the post of Inspector-General of Musketry in India, a post which he held until 1893. He confessed that in view of the training and of the post of A.D.C. held by that officer, giving him no practical touch with men or regimental training, that was a most inexplicable appointment, seeing that there must have been hundreds of officers in India who had had regimental experience as commanding officers, and he would like to know whether that appointment was not opposed at home by the then Commander-in-Chief for some time before it was confirmed. His subsequent service was as Military Secretary and Deputy Quartermaster-General, both posts at Head Quarters, Simla. There was one point also as to this officer's later service in South Africa which required explaining. In the Official Army List he is shown as commanding the Mounted Infantry Division, South Africa, April 1900 to May 1901, but this officer came home with Lord Roberts in November, 1900. Such a manner of establishing a "record" was most reprehensible, and if sanctioned by regulations, the sooner these were changed the better. He practically only commanded the Mounted Infantry Division for a few months, although given the rank of Lieutenant-General over the heads of a number of senior officers on the spot, being finally promoted to that rank over the heads of sixty or seventy major-generals. The question was whether such a career was the best to fit an officer for the onerous and responsible position he now held.

He would pass on, more for comparison than criticism, to the case of General Sir William Nicholson, a distinguished officer with valuable Indian experience, who, on appointment as Director-General of Military Intelligence, had been promoted to the rank of lieutenant-general, although he had when a colonel been promoted by Lord Roberts in 1899 out of his turn to supernumerary major-general. His predecessor, Sir John Ardagh, an officer of world-wide experience, who was retired for age, had been denied that rank of lieutenant-general after five years tenure of that position. General Nicholson was six years junior to General Ardagh in the service, and it was a grave blot on any system that it should allow the country to be deprived of the valuable services of Sir John Ardagh at the present juncture. His services might have been utilised by the Imperial Committee of Defence, but instead of that he was sent to South Africa as a member of the Commission to inquire into the working of Courts-martial. The action of the War Office in this case contrasted very strongly with that of the Colonial Office in the case of Sir Robert Herbert, the late Permanent Under-Secretary. Surely the War Office need not have thus dispensed with Sir John Ardagh's services at the very moment the Intelligence and Mobilisation Department were supposed to be receiving special attention. The phrase of "sending Hercules to the Himalayas" was truly applicable to more recent army appointments than the one of Lord Kitchener, to whom primarily it had reference; in any case the system must be wrong that retired a valuable officer for not attaining, on relinquishing an office, the rank that was specially bestowed on his successor on appointment to the same office. He quite admitted that selection was a necessity and had many good points, but it must be strictly safeguarded. He was prepared to allow a great deal of discretion to the Commander-in-Chief, but many cases at present were inexplicable and irritating to the whole body of the Army. It was an extraordinary thing how every one of the Commander-in-Chief's A.D.C.'s were selected for good appointments. Sir George Pretyman, who had been unemployed for five years, and whose claims for employment must have come before and been rejected by the Selection Board for all that period, was appointed in 1899 by the present Commander-in-Chief, when he was on the point of retirement, commandant to Lord Roberts at headquarters, a post often held by captains or majors, and although he had never practically commanded in the field except a minor post on lines of communication, he had now been selected for a first-class district in India. Was that selection made by the Selection Board?

Another case which required some explanation was that of General Sir C. Tucker. This general was appointed to the command of a division in South Africa in 1899 with the temporary rank of lieutenant-general.

He was an officer who had served all over the globe. In December, 1900, he attained sixty-two years of age, and in the ordinary course would have retired; but he was retained, presumably, and rightly in his opinion because he was a most efficient officer. That winter Sir T. Kelly-Kenny, Sir A. Hunter, and Sir N. Lyttelton all went home, and later so did General Bindon Blood, this latter after serving barely six months in South Africa, yet in the *Honours Gazette* all were promoted to the rank of lieutenant-general over the head of General Tucker whilst that officer was actually in the field holding a lieutenant-general's command. He considered that the promotion of these officers may have been right and proper, but it was difficult to understand on what principle General Tucker should have been superseded at the time they were promoted, as General Tucker was actually at the time in the field performing the duties of lieutenant-general in South Africa. In 1902 General Tucker was promoted to the rank of lieutenant-general, but he had lost two-and-a-half years of seniority by his supersession, or about fifteen steps. Then there was the case of Major Mackenzie, of the Seaforth Highlanders, another A.D.C. of Lord Roberts, who was appointed Governor of Johannesburg, being given local rank of colonel. At that time there were in Johannesburg, one lieutenant-general and four major-generals who by the appointment were placed under him; and one of these, Lieutenant-General Sir Herbert Chermside, was a man admirably adapted by experience in many countries to be the governor of a cosmopolitan polyglot town like Johannesburg. Lord Settrington was another A.D.C. as to whose advancement he would like to have a little information. Lord Settrington went out to South Africa as a Militia officer and A.D.C. to Lord Roberts, and no doubt rendered good service. He was afterwards posted, however, to the newly raised Irish Guards as second lieutenant, and rose to be captain in six months. It was very hard to find justification for such tremendous progress. Nay, more, it was impossible; every subaltern, not only in the Guards but in the British Army, was wronged by such an incident, and the formation of a new regiment should have been taken advantage of to promote deserving officers. He was standing up for the unknown "Smith" in the Army, who had been sadly neglected of late years. He might give many more cases, but he hoped he would have some answer to the cases he had spoken of.

The distribution of rewards and honours caused intense heart-burning in the men whose whole career depended upon their advancement in the service. He strongly objected to the distinction of "qualified for employment on the staff" being distributed in an arbitrary and erroneous way, as a reward, and being given for anything else than certain specified duties in the field. Such distinctions cast a baneful influence over the Army right down to all the ranks. A great deal of this was due to the want of practical, proper, and efficient working of the machinery by which the Army was organised. The War Office was choked with arrears of work which blocked its effective action. New methods had been started with new men, but there was no head control; decentralisation was not secured, and he did not believe that there was one of the six much vaunted Army Corps which could go on active service without breaking up other units. To show that decentralisation was not secured, in spite of all they had heard, he might point out that even in a small matter such as an application to travel for a few days abroad by an officer from, say, Shorncliffe or Chichester, the application would be sent first to the officer commanding at Shorncliffe, from Shorncliffe to Dover, then to the officer commanding the Army Corps at Salisbury Plain, and from there to the War Office, and it would come back by the same circuitous route, entailing a great waste of time. With the pressure of work at the War Office it was impossible that the War. Office could rise to the necessity of meeting the case of modern improvements in the Army, such as the much-needed creation of a special N.C.O. training school. The result of this maladministration was also seen in the lamentable (there was no other word for it) succession of incidents which have been occupying public attention for the last year; incidents which were calculated to bring the Army into discredit in the eyes of not only the people of this country, but of the world; incidents such as the delay in the payment of the Yeomanry, the delay in the issue of medals, in the scandals connected with the Yeomanry remount operations in Hungary, in the failure in the case of Major Studdert in Ireland, and in the disgraceful attempt to make General Truman a scape-goat, and force him to resign, when the blame for the loss of horse life in South Africa was on the Chief of Staff in South Africa and on the Yeomanry Committee, the failure and delay also to remodel the army veterinary department, which was even now 20 per cent. short of its establishment, required condemnation. These matters were due to the indecision and the contradictory action of the War Office, and to this same contradictory action and want of administrative power he directly attributed the Buller, Colville, and Kinloch cases.

He would only touch for a moment on the Cape "ragging" case, which had done more to discredit the Army in South Africa than anything else. He had always advocated the necessity of Courts-martial in individual cases, and if they had had Courts-martial carried on under a proper system during the last ten years such an incident as the Cape "ragging" case could not have occurred. Punishments have been decreasing, rewards increasing, with the result from this dangerous principle that discipline has been deteriorating, not improving. The War Office had been guilty of incessant changes; but changes in organisation did not necessarily carry with them an increase of efficiency. It had forfeited the sympathy of the Militia and had turned Volunteers into active enemies. It had also allowed to be carried out under the present regime objectless and expensive changes in uniform under the guise of economy. He felt some explanation was required on the recommendation of the Committee on Officers' Expenses that they should allow cavalry subalterns to consume more liquor at mess than infantry subalterns. He mentioned the case of the contaminated blankets, and the destruction of the condemned rations at Pretoria. Perhaps it was only right that he should read a letter which he had received from South Africa upon this matter, dated Pretoria, 18th June.

"To-day's cablegrams bring in Mr. Brodrick's reply to certain Questions asked by you in the House of Commons on June 17th regarding the destruction of rations at Pretoria in April last. I entirely agree with the position you have taken up in this connection. Such a wanton and scandalous destruction of good and sound rations, to the value of about £100,000, was sad to see, and should be the subject of most rigid inquiry. Your contention that good meat properly preserved in tins, never deteriorates is substantially correct. Only in cases where boxes containing rations have been roughly used, the tins becoming punctured, have I ever found them unfit for issue. This does not apply to the rations destroyed in Pretoria, the major portion of which was in excellent condition, and at least 75 per cent. bearing stamped impression on tins 2.5.02, and therefore could have only been in South Africa a very few months. Mr. Brodrick's reply to you that the contractors are not to blame is as generons as his statement that the rations were kept longer than intended. I may mention that I was in charge of a section of wagons engaged in carting the same to the site, a few miles from Pretoria, where they were destroyed; and altogether there were engaged in the transit of these rations an average of about ninety wagons daily, covering a period of from three to four weeks. I personally superintended the loading and off-loading of the wagons under my charge, and am therefore in a position to speak as to the true facts of the case, and I have no hesitation in saying that it would have been a most difficult task to have discovered 2½ per cent. unfit for human food. I may further mention that the drivers and leaders of our transport conveying these rations, and numbering about 200 natives, lived almost exclusively on the rations in question, and certainly consumed not less than from 1,200 to 1,500 tins with no ill effects. After the destruction was completed, or supposed to have been, hundreds of rations were removed by hungry natives living in that vicinity. The *modus operandi* in inspecting and condemning these rations, as told to me by a gentleman who was an eye-witness, can only be regarded as farcical. The information herein conveyed can be borne out by several persons now residing in Pretoria."

This latter was on a par with other exposures of War Office system, or rather want of it, but the country had lost £80,000 over the transaction. In any case the War Office could not escape blame.

He had just one word to say as to the present system of recruiting. A great deal had been heard of late about good recruits, and he had always been convinced that a proper system of promoting to a commission from the ranks would go far towards success in obtaining good recruits. He had found from a Return of commissions given to the ranks that in the ten years ending in 1896, the last year we had a Royal Commander-in-Chief, the percentage of commissions given to men from the ranks was 4·5, but in the last eight years, from 1896 to 1902, that percentage had fallen to 2·6. If they wanted good recruits they should encourage the system of giving such commissions, and he advocated a 10 percentage as a fair one; but this fall in the number of such commissions under a Conservative Government showed what a hollow pretence real reform was likely to assume. He understood other Members were going to touch on the ludicrous exposure in this House of the Somaliland operations. The Secretary of State seemed alone blind to the comedy of his action, but it was a very serious matter to the country. There had been a grave loss of life, an expenditure of £500,000, and an annual expenditure going on at the rate of £50,000 a month. Owing to these lamentable facts coming before the public they were losing confidence in the administration of the Army—and, above all, in the Secretary of State for War. Economy and efficiency were considered incompatible, with the result that neither were obtained, and the War Office had come to regard the public purse as a milch cow that could not run dry. It was because he looked upon the whole situation as a very serious one that he now begged to move.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That Item A (Salaries) be reduced by £100, in respect of the Salary of the Secretary of State for War."—(*Mr. Pirie.*)

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (Mr. BRODRICK, Surrey, Guildford) said he did not rise for the purpose of following the hon. Member throughout the whole of the somewhat discursive oration he had made. He thought a speech which attempted in the course of half an hour to touch on almost every question of Army administration, including Somaliland, appointments at the War Office, rations of the troops, decentralisation, and a number of other topics, could not be described otherwise than as giving a discursive view of what had taken place. He rose, before they went to more serious topics which might be introduced, to enter his protest against that part of the hon. Member's speech in which he made a formal indictment of the Commander-in-Chief and the appointments made by him to the War Office. He did not suppose that those observations would be taken in this House for more than they were worth, which was the expression of opinion of an individual Member. But those observations went out to the country, they were reported in the Press, and if he were not at the earliest moment to make an emphatic protest and express his desire to controvert in every respect what had fallen from the hon. Member he should be wanting in the duty which he discharged to this House. To show, he would not say the prejudice in the sense that the hon. Member had deliberately abandoned a fair and impartial treatment of the matter, but to show the prejudiced aspect which the whole subject bore in the hon. Member's mind, he could not do better than to take two appointments, the only two on which he proposed to comment, in regard to which the hon. Member had attacked the position of the War Office—the appointment of two most distinguished officers, Sir Ian Hamilton and Sir William Nicholson. The hon. Member said that the record of Sir Ian Hamilton was one purely of personal interest to the Commander-in-Chief. That was not only not the truth but it was the absolute reverse of the truth. Sir Ian Hamilton undoubtedly served the Commander-in-Chief as military secretary in India. He was also selected by Sir George White, and asked to take the same post on his staff which he had held with Lord Roberts, and at the urgent request of the new Commander-in-Chief Sir Ian Hamilton did so. He himself happened to know, for he was then in India, that at the moment Sir Ian Hamilton urgently desired to return home. Sir Ian Hamilton was appointed, not by Lord Roberts but by Sir George White, to the position of Inspector-General of Musketry in India, and the qualities which he showed in that capacity were so exceptional for the position that he was appointed, not by Lord Roberts, nor by Sir George White, but by Lord Wolseley, to the chief post at the School of Musketry at Hythe. From that post he was selected, not by Lord Roberts but by Lord Wolseley and Sir Redvers Buller, who at that moment, he thought, had not gone out himself, to proceed to Natal and to form part of the Natal field force. In that capacity he commanded a brigade at Ladysmith, and he consequently commanded a division during the campaign in South Africa. He returned with Lord Roberts, and as between the date of his return and the absolute date of the abandonment of his command he, like other officers, was allowed two months leave. He then became military secretary to Lord Roberts; and he was, with the universal assent of the whole country—there was never an appointment which gave greater satisfaction—sent as Chief of the Staff to Lord Kitchener, and practically he exercised the control of Chief of the Staff for eight months over an Army of a quarter of a million of men. On coming back he was employed at the War Office in the post which was previously held by Lord Wolseley, Sir Redvers Buller, and Sir Evelyn Wood; and he could only say that that was a good omen for Sir Ian Hamilton's future advancement, as it was an indication of services which were exceptional, even in a campaign in which many exceptional services were rendered. He must say that to represent the appointment of an officer of that distinction in the field, whose qualities had been proved and acknowledged by all those who served with him in Scuth Africa, as a personal selection for personal services to the Commander-in-Chief was an unworthy representation to proceed from a Member of this House.

With regard to Sir William Nicholson, he could only say this—it was not necessary for him to speak of his abilities in this House, they were known to all Members who had to do with India long before they were known to those who served in the War Office, who were not in immediate contact with him. Sir William Nicholson was a member of the Defence Committee, and as a member of that Committee he had been brought in contact with leading Cabinet Ministers and with the leading members of the sister service. He undertook to say that there was not a man sitting on that Committee who would not say that it was impossible to deal with Sir William Nicholson without feeling that he was a man of the very first ability, knowledge, and application. The hon. Member had instituted a comparison, which he thought was wholly undesirable, between Sir William Nicholson and Sir John Ardagh, who had done excellent service in the capacity and in respect of the subjects with which he was charged. They all knew that the post of Director-General of Mobilisation and of Military Intelligence had been immensely developed, his responsibility had been greatly enlarged; and he was glad to say that by a recent decision of the Treasury, on their application, his staff had been greatly enlarged. When that change was made, and these fresh responsibilities were placed upon Sir William Nicholson, he was given a seat on the War Office Council, and, like every other officer holding that position, he was given the rank and pay of lieutenant-general. The denial of that rank to Sir John Ardagh was not due to any disregard for his qualifications. It was given to Sir William Nicholson because the post he held was a much more important one. The hon. Member had represented that General Tucker had been in some respects a victim of some want of regard on the part of the Commander-in-Chief.

MR. PIRIE asked whether it was not the fact that General Tucker had been superseded.

MR. BRODRICK said it was impossible to undertake, when an officer was selected for promotion for his services in the field, that he should not go over the heads of other officers. General Tucker, as it happened, was made knight commander of the Bath in the *Gazette* in which two other officers were made lieutenant-generals, and he was subsequently made lieutenant-general for his services in the campaign. He was quite certain that General Tucker would be the last man to say or to suggest that his treatment had been otherwise than handsome. He would leave these subjects, and only on this ground—they had given a pledge to the House two years ago that all appointments of officers should be made with a view to their command in the field, and, as far as he knew, that pledge had been kept in every single particular. He was prepared to vindicate every appointment that came under his own personal control in the sense of putting the seal on what had been brought before him by the military authorities. He could assure the Committee that these imputations of favouritism, not one of which had ever been made good in or out of the House, gave the utmost pain, not merely to the Commander-in-Chief, but to the officers associated with him, and to the officers unnamed on whose behalf they were professed to be made. He had never heard of, and he did not believe there was, in the Army any feeling but one of confidence that every endeavour was made to take the best men. Of course, after a campaign there must be disappointments; but all he could say was that officers who had been preferred after this campaign had not belonged to one school rather than another. They had been selected indiscriminately from among men who had the best Indian reputations, the best Egyptian reputations, and the best peace reputations in Great Britain. He hoped that these efforts to disparage the judgment, and, more than the judgment, the integrity, of a great soldier like the Commander-in Chief would not be repeated.

MR. CHARLES HOBHOUSE (Bristol, E.) said that the right hon. Gentlemen had had brought to his notice the feeling of indignation which was often caused by the selection of officers for promotion. He did not agree with his hon. friend in introducing particular names to the Committee; but it was unquestionable that a great many of the appointments made by Lord Roberts in connection with the war had caused the greatest offence to, and deepened the ill-feeling of, many deserving officers in the British Army. He deprecated the introduction of names in the strongest possible manner; but he would say that Lord Roberts' appointments had not always been free from the suspicion of favouritism.

Passing from that point, he thought the Committee were entitled to a pronouncement as to the policy of the Government with regard to the permanent garrison in South Africa. The proposal, first made in *The Times*, was that one Army Corps should be permanently stationed in South Africa, and called part of the home garrison. Three points were urged in favour of that policy. The first was the strategic mobility to be gained thereby; the second emanated from the Colonial Office, and suggested that the "three-year-old" soldiers should be invited to settle in South Africa as colonists; while the third, which probably came from some ardent supporter of War Office reform, urged that South Africa was a better training ground than Great Britain could possibly be. Upon the last point contradictory statements had been made from the Treasury Bench, for while in April, 1902, the Secretary of State for War declared that no men were sent out not properly trained, in March of this year the Financial Secretary to the War Office stated that South Africa was considered a very suitable training ground for the young soldier. The War Office might have changed their policy, but those statements were clearly incompatible. He believed that for the purposes of mounted infantry and cavalry drill, South Africa was an admirable training ground, because of the distances and areas it afforded, but with regard to artillery the advantage was not so certain, and he seriously doubted its desirability as a training ground for the infantry. The large area necessary for mounted forces was not required for infantry, and the character of the ground in South Africa was so unlike the enclosed regions of this country that the officer entrusted with the duty of training the men would be set a task entirely different from that involved in manœuvring in an enclosed country. That difference was recognised by the writer of the series of articles in *The Times*. It was untrue to say that infantry could not be trained in England just as well as anywhere else. He did not know whether the Financial Secretary had read the interesting critique in *Th Times* of this morning on the manœuvre at Aldershot. He took it that the writer of the critique was the gentleman who animadverted upon the individual composition of the brigades which took part in the recent Aldershot review. The writer pointed out that over a considerable open space of ground a division was manœuvred in accordance with the most recent developments of military drill, in the style and upon the theory adopted with such conspicuous success in the German manœuvres four years ago. If it was possible so to manœuvre infantry that they were concealed from the observation of the defending force, the manœuvring of the soldier depended not so much upon the ground which he occupied as upon the intelligence of the officer who directed the operations. If the quality of the directing officer was improved there would be obtained on the part of the private soldier a skill not hitherto secured in this country. *The Times* critic also noticed that the non-commissioned officers and men showed an intelligent interest in the maps of the surrounding country which had been provided for them. If that were so, the Army had made a substantial advance in the right direction. Another consideration in connection with the permanent garrison in South Africa was that the cost of the soldier in that country was so much greater than in England that it would materially increase the expenditure on the Army. A man in South Africa cost £25 more than in England. It appeared, therefore, that the proposal would afford no advantage from the strategic point of view, greatly increase the cost of the troops, and, without providing colonists for South Africa, cause considerable difficulty in the provision and maintenance of the reserve. When the proposal was made to send certain reservists to Canada, it was thought by the War Office that we should have a claim on their services in time of war, but the Canadian Government entirely repudiated that view. The same thing would probably happen in South Africa. Thus there were several serious arguments which could be advanced against the proposed retention of an Army Corps in South Africa as a part of the home garrison.

Another matter upon which he desired information was the future policy in Somaliland. According to the Secretary of State, seventeen officers and 340 men had been killed, the Vote for the campaign was practically exhausted, and further supplies would have to be asked for. What was the quality of the troops that had been engaged? In reply to a Question, the right hon. Gentleman had stated that no native levies would be employed in the field, and yet in every action natives had been given the most prominent share of the fighting. According to the correspondent of the *Daily Telegraph*, these men had not completed even a native recruit's musketry course, and a great part of the losses sustained by Colonel Plunkett's column was doubtless due to the fact that the native levies could not aim straight. Moreover, since that reply, fresh levies of these men had been made. He wished to know something about the troops to be employed in subsequent operations. The whole of the operations in Somaliland had so far been directed to driving our enemy out of another country into British territory. When this expedition began its operations the Mullah was outside British territory, but he had since entrenched himself in British lines, and his presence there was viewed with great anxiety by the inhabitants. Was the War Office going to establish a permanent force in this territory or were they going to have these expeditions every year? They had appointed a competent officer to take command, and they had been told that an advance was shortly to begin. If the result of that advance was to be that the enemy was to be entrenched more strongly in our territory than before the advance, then he hoped some other means would be adopted of driving the Mullah out of our territory, and of securing protection for the tribes to whom they had promised adequate protection. He hoped the right hon. Gentleman would give some reply to the question raised with regard to this South African garrison, and also with regard to this expedition which had proved so costly and had upset all the optimistic statements made by the right hon. Gentleman at the commencement of this session.

*MR. WINSTON CHURCHILL (Oldham) said he thought the Committee would be disposed to agree with the right hon. Gentleman in deprecating the introduction of personal matters which figured so very largely in the speech of the hon. Gentleman who opened the discussion this afternoon. The hon. Member occupied some time in discussing patronage in the Army and Navy. In this country they had committed themselves to the policy of selection, and he thought on the whole it was agreed that that was the only method by which they could arrive at the one most important thing, namely, getting the right man in the right place in the hour of need. Just as it was useless to interfere in matters of selection when there were no grounds for believing that there had been an actual corruption at work, so in regard to the question of the administration of discipline it was not wise to interfere without there were definite grounds to show that the forms of law and justice had not been accurately followed. In so far as criticisms had been made upon matters like the Colonel Kinloch case, he wished to point out that they had not been directed at the legitimate exercise of the discretion of the Commander-in-Chief but only at what was conidered to be a departure from the recognised form of law and justice and an illegitimate exercise of that discretion. The most extraordinary thing in the speech of the hon. Member opposite was the example he took to illustrate the evils of selection. He should not have thought, on the face of it, that there were two officers in the British Army whose appointments had given more universal satisfaction than the appointments of General Ian Hamilton and Sir William Nicholson. He apprehended that it was the general opinion of those born in the service that there were few men more fitted to deal with the great matters of policy and administration, transcending and extending beyond the ordinary limitations of strictly professional training, or more fitted to rank as military statesmen, who could take part in the Councils of National Defence. He rose chiefly for the purpose of expressing the hope that they should not consume this day in discussing these comparatively small personal matters. He hoped they would not spend a long time in discussing the procedure at a Court-martial of which they had heard a good deal. There were an immense number of important matters which a great many hon. friends of his were very anxious to have information about. Some of those questions had been touched upon by the hon. Member who spoke last, and he appealed to the Secretary of State for War to give them as much information as he could as early as possible in the debate, because he thought that would curtail the discussion and make it more fruitful, and prevent them from straying on wrong lines. He hoped the right hon. Gentleman would be able to tell them something as to what he intended to do in regard to the troops in South Africa. Did he intend to keep the present garrison permanently there, and what would be the increased cost of that alteration in the distribution of their military forces in South Africa? He should also like to know a little more about the popularity of the service in South Africa as compared with the popularity of the service in other parts of the British Empire. If South Africa was going to be a permanent station for such a large force they could not go on keeping the troops under canvas or under rudimentary temporary shelter. Of course that would react upon the question of cost. Besides that, he hoped the right hon. Gentleman would be able to tell them something in regard to the progress made with recruiting. He was rather inclined to think that some of the figures the Secretary of State for War had given had hardly tended to reassure the House that the right hon. Gentleman's anticipations at the beginning of the session had been borne out by events. They wished to know how the recruiting had been affected by the new conditions as to character and standard which had been introduced, and they also wanted to know the number of re-engagements or proportion made under the new system of pay.

MR. BRODRICK: There are no statistics available yet.

*MR. WINSTON CHURCHILL said if there were no statistics available of course they could not have them.

MR. BRODRICK said the recruits who were taken for three years under the new system began to engage in April last year, and until April next year they had no opportunity of knowing that they would re-engage for another period.

*MR. WINSTON CHURCHILL said he thought that was a very favourite date. He understood from that answer that there would be no difficulty in obtaining the information he had asked for. Then there was the question of the artillery guns. That was a matter which had attracted great interest both inside and outside the House. It was an extraordinary thing that, although they had only a small Army, it was not well-armed, and although it was such an expensive Army, it was practically without quick-firing guns.

*THE CHAIRMAN: The guns do not come upon this Vote.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean) asked if they would be in order in calling attention to the answers given by the Secretary of State for War to Questions put to him upon this subject.

*THE CHAIRMAN: I cannot keep in my mind all the Answers given on the Questions put, and I cannot quite see in what shape the right hon. Gentleman proposes to raise the question. I am perfectly clear, however, that no discussion in regard to the supply of these guns can be permitted on this Vote.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE submitted that the hon. Member for Oldham had not entered upon any technical discussion with regard to the need of guns, but had only referred to the refusal of the Government in regard to those guns.

*THE CHAIRMAN: My interruption was of a precautionary character.

MR. CHARLES HOBHOUSE pointed out that there was part of this Vote devoted to the pay of the Inspector-General of Artillery, and surely it would be in order on that particular item to discuss the question of guns.

*THE CHAIRMAN: The question of guns must be raised on the Vote for guns. Vote 9 is for guns, and that obviously is the place where everybody will expect the discussion to come.

*MR. WINSTON CHURCHILL said he should be the last person to attempt to draw the discussion out of the channel in which it should properly flow, but if the right hon. Gentleman could give them any information he would relieve the very considerable apprehension which existed in the minds of many hon. Members in regard to this topic. It would also be very interesting if the Secretary of State for War could, without entering into any details, let them know what he proposed to do with regard to the Intelligence Department. If those matters had not the same relative importance as they had at the beginning of the session, it was because they had been overshadowed by the introduction of other graver subjects, and expelled by the forebodings of change which pervaded the political arena. The matters he had mentioned vitally affected not only the efficiency of the Army but the safety of the country, and he was sure his hon. friend would endeavour to do his best, and give them as much information as he possibly could.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE said the hon. Member for Oldham had put some most necessary questions, to which it was essential that they should have answers in the course of this debate. Many hon. Members would be disposed to agree with him in regretting that his hon. friend who opened this debate should have taken as his example the appointment with regard to musketry instruction of Sir Ian Hamilton, whose interest in the subject was beyond dispute, in fact he was a man who had throughout his career given more time and thought to that problem than any other man in Europe.

MR. PIRIE dissented.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE said that if his hon. and gallant friend had attacked the political speeches of Sir Ian Hamilton he might have had something to say for himself, but if his attack was on his appointment to his present post that was a mistake, if he would allow him to say so. With regard to Sir William Nicholson there was one fact which was not mentioned by the Secretary of State, and which was material to his present appointment, and that was that he held the same position in India. He was secretary of the Mobilisation Commission in India, and anyone who knew the work done there would know that Sir William Nicholson had transcendent qualifications for the post he now occupied. He was glad that the hon. Member had moved a reduction of the salary of the Secretary of State, and he should support him if he went to a division. His hon. friend the Member for Oldham had asked a number of questions in regard to recruiting, and he had raised in brief form reminiscences of those interesting discussions which they had earlier in the present year. The hon. Member had truly said that events had occurred which had distracted the immediate attention of the country from Army questions. If there was anyone pleased at the raising of financial issues it was the Secretary of State for War, for the Colonial Secretary was a lightning conductor for the right hon. Gentleman. It was probable, therefore, that hon. Members who were now discussing Army questions would not receive the general support in the country which they might have expected had these other questions not been raised.

They wanted to put some definite questions to the right hon. Gentleman. They wanted to know both the condition of recruiting and also the bearing of the present position of recruiting upon the condition of his Army Corps as shown by the figures laid before the House a few months ago. He should not like to make himself responsible for the criticism on the recent Aldershot review, and on the field state of the troops which took part in the review. But he thought the Committee would expect to have from the Secretary of State some account of the reasons which led to certain battalions having to leave so large a proportion of their men off the field and outside the review. He should also like to ask the Secretary of State not only with regard to the number of recruits but also what were the medical reports as to the ability of the recruits to stand the strain of the work in the first few months—work which though hard was very light compared with that which recruits did in Germany and France—and under which a terrible proportion of the troops were breaking down. He should like the Secretary of State to tell the Committee something in regard to the problem presented with regard to the food of the men. His own belief was that the right hon. Gentleman would have to increase the quantity and quality of the food of the recruits, and that the principle which was laid down in regard to the food of recruits for the Navy—which was more considerable than the food of the Army and which was for that reason less requisite in the case of the Navy—would have to be applied to the Army. It was this—

> "The ration should be sufficient in itself to satisfy all reasonable requirements of the men and to maintain them in a fit state of health."

They had not reached that point and he thought it had a greater bearing on the recruiting problem than the question of pay. The second question asked by the hon. Member for Oldham had reference to re-engagements. He wished to know whether it was possible to give the Committee any information on that point. It was not at the end of three but at the end of two years that the men had to make their choice, and he should have thought that the Inspector-General would have been able to tell the Secretary of State as to the re-engagements. Moreover, there was a pretty large number of three-years' men before the new scheme was brought into force. He thought their experience of the present rate of re-enlistment of three-years' men would have an important bearing on the question of re-engagements, in regard to which the hon. Member for Oldham had asked for information. He was glad to find a less determined tone on the part of the hon. Member for Oldham in favour of the Army Corps in South Africa than he had noticed in his suggestion some months ago.

MR. WINSTON CHURCHILL was understood to demur.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE said the Committee had undoubtedly never been in possession of the facts which were really necessary to enable them to make up their minds on the questions which were put by his hon. friend the Member for Bristol as to cost, which had assumed such prominence in the remarks of the hon. Member for Oldham. He asked the Secretary of State whether they might consider that he had not changed his position. If no change was to be put forward before February or March next year it was unnecessary to discuss the matter now, but if there was the slightest chance of the Army being organised on new lines the Committee ought to have it threshed out, and they ought to know the arguments for and against the scheme. As long as the Government needed 30,000 troops in South Africa and intended to reduce them to 15,000 that was no change. That was the intention expressed in the House last year, and again this year, but when the Government make up its mind that a single man was to be kept in South Africa beyond the necessities of South Africa that was a change. If there was a change it ought to be very fully explained to the House and debated by the House. He did not know whether this was a matter that had been settled, or whether it was the subject of inquiry by the Government. The Prime Minister, three months ago, undoubtedly led the House to believe that the matter was under inquiry by the Government, and he promised a statement upon it. When they asked when they would have an opportunity of discussing it the right hon. Gentleman said this Vote would give such an opportunity. They were, therefore, thoroughly justified in asking if any change was to be made before March next. If so the Committee should be told. The hon. Member for Oldham asked definite questions as to the cost which would be involved by keeping an additional number of men in South Africa beyond the needs of South Africa. On the question of cost the Secretary of State seemed to have changed his figures during the last few months. When the right hon Gentleman was asked on 10th of March as to the additional cost of keeping men in South Africa he said that it was from £20 to £25 per man. But the other day when he was asked a similiar question he said that 30,000 were kept there at present but that it was the intention of the Government to reduce the permanent garrison to 15,000. The other day the Secretary of State was asked as to the additional charge for keeping troops in South Africa and he said the extra cost at the present time was £45,000 per week. That appeared to him to work out a wholly different figure and make the additional cost far greater.

MR. BRODRICK: Let me say to the right hon. Gentleman that I endeavoured to give some idea what the permanent cost would be for keeping troops in South Africa, but that is complicated by the very large amount for transport.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE said those figures would give a total of £2,340,000, and it was an enormous sum for 30,000 men. The Secretary of State had explained that the discrepancy could be explained by the cost of transport. He wished to point out the enormous importance of the question of transport. The South African troops were to be short service troops—three years men. Raw recruits were to be sent out. The question of transport would therefore assume a very serious aspect. India had complained that she had to pay a great deal for transport, but what would it be in the case of South Africa if they had three years' service men? This question of transport bore on every other question involved. They had been told that it would be possible to make the change with advantage to India because troops would be more easily sent from South Africa than from home. If they were three years' service men they could not be sent to India as organised units. Before being sent they would have to receive their reserves from home. He could not help thinking that the scheme had not been thought out, and he was sure the Committee would be greatly interested in hearing what the Secretary of State had to tell them about it. His hon. friend the Member for Bristol had admitted that up to a certain point South Africa would be an excellent training ground for troops. Undoubtedly, but there was one point which was never sufficiently remembered in this connection. It was that long before the South African war complaints were made again and again on the Medical Vote of the enormous amount of typhoid fever in South Africa, and if our young troops would be subject to typhoid attacks that would be a great drawback to the country as a training ground. Whatever proposal the Government had to make on this point, they must deal with the question of length of service, the question of reserves, and the popularity of service in South Africa. They must tell the House whether there was any proposal in connection with India reliefs to accompany any proposal in regard to South Africa. A year and four months ago the Secretary of State for War was asked whether he had the consent of the Government of India to the charges then made, or whether the Government of India had been consulted about the changes in recruiting, and they elicited the fact that the Government of India had not been consulted, and that the Government of India had protested. But the papers showing the vehement nature of there protests had been kept back from the House for a year and more. These papers showed an overwhelming case against the Secretary for War and the Cabinet. When hon. Members on that side of the House used the word "regret," they were told that they were moving a vote of censure on the Government. The Government of India had, therefore, passed a vote of censure on the Secretary for War and the home Government, because the Viceroy telegraphed to the Secretary for India on 8th March, 1902—

> "We desire respectfully to express our regret that the Government of India were not given an opportunity of stating their views before decision was arrived at, and that we received no official intimation until it was on the eve of being announced to Parliament."

The Secretary for India himself took up the protest of the Government of India, and on 22nd April, 1902, he used these words in a letter from the India Office to the War Office—

> "Lord George Hamilton . . . shares the regret of the Government of India that it was not found possible to adopt a procedure under which both the Council of India and the Government of India might have been afforded time and facilities for investigating and discussing, from the Indian point of view, the effects of the new system of recruiting."

In fact, the Secretary for India had made out an overwhelming case against his colleague the Secretary for War and the whole Cabinet, and it was curious that the right hon. Gentleman should have dissociated himself from the action of the Secretary for War and adopted the view of the Indian Government. He was not going to discuss the opinion of the Lord Chief Justice on the point. That would be raised on the Indian Budget; but personally he did not differ from it. What he blamed the Secretary for War for was, that the right hon Gentleman had placed the Government of India in that position.

He wished to endorse what had been said by the hon. Member for Oldham in regard to certain points on which we were behind every other nation in the world in spite of the enormous expenditure on the British Army. It was impossible to stand up against the Secretary for War when he said that he could not make certain changes on account of their cost. But there were a number of changes which the poorest countries in the world were able to make, but which we could not make on account of their cost. The hon. Member for Oldham had given two instances. The first was that the War Office were continuing the practice of drawing on the line battalions for the mounted infantry instead of creating a separate corps of mounted infantry. He could not conceive of any sane man depending on obtaining an effective body of mounted infantry under the present system, which was rotten. Then the supply of horses and mules for transport had never been sufficient. Again, it was said that the adoption of quick-firing guns could not be carried out on the ground of cost. He would observe the ruling of the Chairman on this question of guns, but their attack was on the Secretary for War and the Financial Secretary to the War Office. Years ago they pressed the predecessor of the present Financial Secretary on this point. They showed him that our guns were antiquated even long before the war, and the answer of the right hon. Gentleman was almost exactly word for word that of the present Financial Secretary. Since that time the two last great Powers to adopt quick-firing guns were the United States and Russia. Long years ago, Switzerland, one of the smallest and most economical of States in Europe, had adopted them, and ages ago they had been adopted in France and Germany. Yet nothing had been done by this country. He would not deal with the technical points that there had been no real conversion of our guns into quick-firing guns. There had only been an alteration of the breach arrangement from one side of the gun to the other, while the spade attachment did not make the gun into a quick-firing gun. We were now behind every other nation in the world. The difference was such that a battery of six of our guns was only equivalent to one gun employed by the other nations. That was given on the authority of an eminent United States officer. He believed that we must save money on the Army expenditure, and that that must be done next year. That could only be done by the changes pointed out so well by the hon. Member opposite. It would be more necessary for the Secretary for War to make these savings on a large scale, because it was necessary to make these changes in our guns. So long as the Secretary for War and his advisers clung to the linked-battalion system he would not be able to show the saving on expenditure which the House would insist upon. If the Secretary for War had moved within the last four months to replace the linked-battalion system, and that of small, ill-drilled depôts by large depôts, there might have been some hope for him and for the country, but if he stuck to the old system it was impossible to imagine that the right hon. Gentleman could show that economy by which he could expect to get Estimates through the House.

Mr. BRODRICK said that the House would sympathise with him in attempting, within a reasonable compass, to make a reply. The right hon. Gentleman had appealed to him to do something to save himself, but if, in the past, he had done many things which the right hon. Gentleman had asked him to do he should not have escaped shipwreck. He had fought many questions against the right hon. Gentleman from that side of the House, and he was bound to say that year after year he returned to the charge with unerring pertinacity, and made the same discarded suggestions. But although he hoped he had not been impervious to one of his suggestions—viz., that of short service, he had not seen in the right hon. Gentleman's speech a tone of absolute certainty even as to the result of that operation. And, indeed, he thought he was more confident about it than the right hon. Gentleman. Many subjects had been discussed that afternoon, because it was said for three months they had enjoyed immunity from criticism in consequence of the discussion of the great new scheme of the Colonial Secretary. He admitted that the Secretary for the Colonies had added that to the numerous other services for which the country was indebted to him; he had redeemed them from the folly and absurdity for which every nation in Europe was laughing at us. As a distinguished German statesman a few days ago said—

> "Our nation took fifteen years to remodel our Army, and your Army has been torn to pieces over a scheme which has been only fifteen months under trial."

He thought they should be able to show that this breathing space had been turned to some account. The hon. Member for Oldham asked some questions as to how recruiting was going on during this period, and he was sure the Committee would watch with great interest how recruiting was going on, and what the position was in regard to it. They were in a very special position in regard to recruiting in the present year. In the first place, they had the Army, for the first time, quite full, and, in fact, overflowing. In March last, when they had to demobilise after the war, they found the cavalry 5,000 to 6,000 above strength, and the field and horse artillery 3,500 above strength—a position in which this country had never been before. That necessitated their practically closing recruiting for the cavalry and the other mounted arms. They had also raised the standard all round except for the infantry of the line, in respect of which they had taken no "specials." That was a very large general change; but, in addition to that, a considerable change had also been made in requiring and demanding characters from the men. The first effect of that change was to cause men who had the slightest doubt about their character not to present themselves, and he was not at all certain that some of those who refrained would have been very eligible recruits, because it was almost impossible to interpret a regulation of that sort in too strict a manner. But the net result had been that they had not only been raising their standard and diminishing the attractions in the shape of bounties but the Committee would readily see that the raising of the standard in itself shut out from the Army a great deal which they had a right to expect. On the other hand the men growing up would be available next year. The net result was not altogether unsatisfactory. The number of recruits taken for the infantry of the line from the 1st January to the 1st July, 1902 was 11,121. This year the number was 13,023; therefore there was a gain on the infantry of the line of about 2,000. On the cavalry of the line there was a loss of about 3,000. The total number of recruits from the 1st January to the 4th July, 1902, was 23,500, which was the best year they ever had; and the number taken this year was 20,500. Therefore, while there was a gain on the infantry of the line of 2,000, there was a loss of 3,000 on the whole.

MR. WINSTON CHURCHILL: Was that for the half year or the whole year?

MR. BRODRICK: For the half year. The recruits taken during the same period for the horse and field artillery were in 1901, 12,482, in 1902, 9,600; and, owing to the changes he had mentioned, only 7,100 this year. It was too early to draw any lessons from these figures, but he did not think there was anything in them to cause apprehension. If they were to take no "specials," and were to insist upon character, there would be a decrease of wastage. In addition to that, they knew that of every 100 men who came to a station and asked to go into the cavalry sixty or seventy walked away at once when they were told the cavalry was not open. Therefore they might assume that when they again opened the cavalry they would have a considerable addition to the number of recruits. In any case they were committed to the experiment, and certainly so far the class of recruits they had taken had given every satisfaction. General French had told him the other day that he was highly satisfied with the recruits recently received at Aldershot, the Commander-in-Chief spoke very highly the other day of the recruits at Colchester, and he had had similar reports from other stations. It was absurd to throw stones at the Secretary of State for War because recruits would not come in voluntarily at a time when trade happened to be brisk. They had no reason to entertain serious apprehension in this respect.

MR. WINSTON CHURCHILL said nobody blamed the right hon. Gentleman because recruits did not come in. Criticism had been directed to the fact that the right hon. Gentleman had formulated a scheme which required a great many more recruits than could be supplied annually.

MR. BRODRICK said he was not referring to his hon. friend, but to the fact that he constantly saw the smallest class of "specials" called after his name. This was a curious phenomenon, because on no occasion in the last seventeen years had he ever voted for having "specials," or been willing to decrease the standard. On the contrary, he had raised the standard. With regard to the Aldershot review, it had been suggested that regiments were either very short in numbers or were not on parade at all. That was perfectly true. The review had been erroneously called a review of the 1st Army Corps. It could not be that, because a large number of the troops of the 1st Army Corps had only just come home from South Africa.

MR. WINSTON CHURCHILL asked where was the 3rd Division.

MR BRODRICK said four regiments of the 5th brigade had been home under two months, or just over that. A very large number of the men were on furlough, and to bring them back for the sake of a parade would have been very hard. That brigade was 3,320 men strong, and he thought it would be admitted that it was a very fine brigade. Then two brigades of artillery, one of which belonged to that division, were practising at Okehampton, and it would have been undesirable to bring them back from the ordinary practice of the year simply for a parade. The 14th Hussars returned recently from South Africa, and were utilised for keeping the approaches to the ground and for escort duties, and 1,800 men were employed in keeping the ground. He admitted that some of the Line battalions were short in numbers; but the pressure on the Lines had been enormouse in the last few years, and it must be remembered that of the Line battalions sixteen had been formed in the last four years. One of the battalions in which there was a shortage of men was that of the Manchester regiment. If the expectations of the military authorities as to the possibility of maintaining the 3rd and 4th battalions of this regiment were disappointing, they would have to consider the position of this regiment. For the moment, as two of the battalions had been on active service and the remaining two had only just been raised, they had to face a shortage in some of these battalions. He would go carefully into the position with regard to the 3rd and 4th battalions before the next Estimates. A very important point had been raised with regard to the artillery, and he hoped he might be allowed to say a word on the question of policy. The right hon. Member for Forest of Dean spoke extremely strongly about the present artillery, and there was, he knew, a general desire in the House to hear that the Government had adopted a new and better gun, a more powerful gun, and a more quick-firing gun.

MAJOR SEELY (Isle of Wight): A quick-firing gun.

MR. BRODRICK said the eighteen batteries that they had could not be described otherwise than as quick-firing.

MAJOR SEELY said the quick-firing guns were an infinitesimal proportion of the whole.

MR. BRODRICK said they had 108 quick-firing guns which they could not leave out of sight altogether. He only wanted to be perfectly fair. There was no Member of that House who had given the time to this question which it was his duty to give. From the moment he went to the War Office in 1900 he exercised his influence, so far as a civilian could, and applied himself to this question. He saw Lord Roberts on the subject on the very day he arrived from South Africa and asked him to appoint a Committee and to take whatsoever steps he thought best immediately to obtain a gun that would be more suitable. With that view, before anything had been done, he took a sum in the Estimates of that year. On January 23, 1901, a few days after Lord Roberts came home, a special committee, composed of artillery officers who had commanded brigades and batteries during the Boer War, was formed under the presidency of Major-General Sir George Marshall, who commanded the artillery, to consider the whole question of bringing our horse and field artillery equipment up to date. On May 8 of that year the Committee rendered their first Report, specifying the conditions as to increased range and weight and the nature of the ammunition which they would recommend. The details were referred back to the Committee, and on receiving their Report the War Office at once communicated with Messrs. Armstrong, Messrs. Vickers, Messrs. Hotchkiss, and the ordnance factories, and invited them to submit designs of guns and howitzers which would fulfil the conditions recommended by the Committee. At a later date another firm asked to be allowed to submit designs, and they were supplied with a copy of the conditions. One of the firms asked to compete declined to send in any designs, but in October of that year designs were received from Messrs. Armstrong, Messrs. Vickers, and the ordnance factories. There were numerous details which had to be discussed, and at the earliest moment after the settlement of the details each firm was asked to submit specimens. These specimens of guns were not delivered until August or September of last year. In the interval he repeatedly called the attention of the military authorities responsible, and also of the manufacturers, to the desirability of pressing forward the production of these guns. The guns were tried last year at Shoeburyness, and later on they were all tested at Okehampton, when Lord Roberts went down to see the results. These results were highly satisfactory, but there were again details which required adjustment. The moment those details were adjusted they gave an order to Messrs. Armstrong and Messrs. Vickers for four complete batteries of quick-firing guns for both the horse artillery and the field artillery. He had pressed by every means in his power for the production of these guns, and they were promised that they should have these batteries in August. When they were received they would be tested at once, and as soon as possible a decision would be given in regard to them. He knew that two years and a half seemed an enormous time to take. It was difficult to expedite the designing and manufacture of these guns, and to press the military authorities to come to a decision which would cost the country from £2,000,000 to £4,000,000, when they were not satisfied that they had got the best available weapon. If they got, as they believed they had got, substantially a good gun—a heavier gun than those at present in use, a far quicker firing gun for the field artillery, and a better gun in all respects for the horse artillery—he would take care to sweep away any minor difficulties and get to work as soon as they could.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE asked whether the right hon. Gentleman could say what the then Financial Secretary meant in June, 1899, when he said experiments were being conducted at that time with a view to the introduction of quick-firing guns.

MR. WINSTON CHURCHILL asked whether the right hon. Gentleman could say when he expected that these four specimen batteries would be ready, and when he expected that the re-armament of the artillery would be begun and completed.

MR. BRODRICK said he was chary of giving figures. As soon as the designs were settled he would endeavour to get a contract. When he had got a contract he would know approximately when the re-armament would be completed. The hon. Member might rest assured that the brigades which required the guns earliest would have them. With regard to the right hon. Baronet's question, he was not at the War Office in June, 1899, and did not know what the then Financial Secretary had in his mind at the moment. He wished to say a word about the Intelligence Department. At the beginning of this year General Nicholson had at his disposal twenty-eight officers. They had gone most carefully into the additional work he had to do. They had applied to the Treasury, and ten additional officers had been selected for this work. He had every reason to believe that General Nicholson was perfectly satisfied that this provision would enable him to carry out his duties.

The hon. Member opposite asked him for some account of the probable position in Somaliland, and referred a little disparagingly, he thought, to what he considered the failure of the optimistic statements he had made with regard to that campaign. He thought the hon. Member did him scant justice in that respect. His optimism consisted, first, in telling the House that it was impossible for the military authorities, in initiating an expedition by a small force in that vast country, to undertake that we should capture the Mullah; that all they could say was that there was a most certain way of crippling his resources on the one hand, and of driving him from his position, in which he threatened both our sphere and the Italian sphere, on the other. And, so far as the campaign proceeded, he represented that it had carried out the intentions of those who advised them to undertake it. General Manning, by his advance, first drove the Mullah from the position in which he had been dwelling in perfect security and raiding the native tribes, and then drove him right into Abyssinian territory. The Abyssinians, so far as they could judge—for in all those questions they had to depend to some extent on native information checked by their own officers—on two separate occasions gave the Mullah a very serious blow. The Mullah, he thought, lost over 1,000 men in each fight. The effect was to drive him, with greatly reduced forces and means of subsistence, right across our line of march to the position he now occupied in the north-east of Somaliland.

MR. CHARLES HOBHOUSE: In our territory.

MR. BRODRICK said he might mention, as corroboration of the view that the Mullah had had a serious blow, that since he was driven right along our line of communications he had made no effort at attack on any one of our posts, or on any one of the forces passing to and fro. General Egerton was now in touch with General Manning, and they had every reason to believe that with the reinforcements he could command, and the increased transport that had arrived, he would be able to strike a fair blow at the Mullah in an improved position. He could not, of course, go into the details of what it was intended to do, though, as he said before, it was not proposed to undertake enterprises involving a vast expedition or great expense. But the necessary reinforcements had been ordered, and, to a large extent, had arrived, and in General Egerton they had a commander in whom they had the fullest confidence to carry out, with the larger force, whatever steps might be necessary.

He passed from that to the main question on which the interest of the Committee was centred, with regard to South Africa. The force in South Africa, which stood at this period last year at about 230,000 men, had been reduced to 32,000 or 33,000 men at the present date. They had had to undertake the building of huts for a large number of these men who had been under canvas for three years, and whom, for their comfort and health, it was desirable to get into permanent buildings as soon as possible. But, as the right hon. Gentleman had pointed out, the First Lord of the Treasury indicated some time ago that they would be prepared to make a general statement of the position as it now presented itself to them, and, in doing so, they had taken care to obtain the best advice from South Africa. The Cabinet had considered what force they were prepared to keep there. There were two standpoints from which they had to investigate the question. The first was the Colonial standpoint—what was necessary in the interests of South Africa. The second was the Imperial standpoint—what was necessary in the interests of the Empire at large. It had been urged, rather unduly he thought, that in the schemes which had been put before the House for an increase of the Army, but little attention had been paid to naval and Imperial considerations. He did not think that was altogether correct. At all events, the institution of the Defence Committee, which the present First Lord of the Admiralty and he welcomed perhaps more than any other two members of the Government, and which they had some share in establishing, had certainly strengthened their hands in working their Departments together with due consideration to the force kept up in India and in other British possessions. He could only say, as far as he was concerned, that he approached the question without any predisposition one way or the other. At the same time, he would say one word in deprecation of the extreme views which had been put before the country in favour of the dispersal of the British Army all over the globe in time of peace. The British Army, whatever its intentions in time of war, was not to be kept up on a voluntary system if they were going to order every man to spend five, or even four, years out of the seven outside this country. The general system of the organisation of the Army—he was not now talking of linked battalions or any other system—had been to secure that the soldier, who when he went abroad mostly served in warm, if not tropical, climates, should be retained for the benefit of his health as well as for the benefit of his *entourage* as near as possible for half of his service in England; and, so long as they kept it, as he hoped they might keep it, a voluntary service, so long must they endeavour to have regard to the wishes of their recruits in that respect. There was one other consideration. Colonial service generally was not, at all events in the past, altogether the best service for the purposes of discipline. They put men who were very highly trained in the middle of a population that was not very highly trained. They put men who were subject to discipline in the midst of a population which lent itself much less to discipline than the population which surrounded them in this country; and he did not think that any dispersal of our Army was therefore an advantage.

Now, with regard to the advantages to the Army itself. It had been urged upon the Government that South Africa was a better training ground, that it gave them better health, and also—and this was a very important consideration for the Committee—that the portion of the force which they kept in South Africa was placed where it could be most easily utilised in that portion of the Empire which was most likely to be attacked. On the other hand, there were considerations which should not be lost sight of by the Committee. In the first place, any addition to the force in South Africa must keep a larger force out of England. Then there was the expense to the officers, who could not live as cheaply in South Africa as in England; and then there was the extra expense to the country involved in keeping a force abroad. It would not do for hon. Members to run too far away as regarded the extra advantages of training in South Africa. If they could keep the whole force in South Africa concentrated, they could teach their generals and field officers a great deal they could not teach them in this country. But if they sent troops to South Africa they must to some extent scatter them, and scatter them at very great distances; and then in some respects the advantages of training would not be found to be so very much greater than they were in this country in the neighbourhood, for instance, of Salisbury Plain. All these considerations had been before them. The Defence Committee had also considered the matter, and had come to a resolution, from the point of view of the defence of India. Looking at all the probabilities, they desired, if they could, to avoid anything which would increase the number of men permanently retained in India, which was not only a great strain on the resources of India, but was a great strain on our resources also in keeping the men here who were to replace them. And yet it must be obvious that the defence of India, if ever it was attacked, would require reinforcements from this country or from other British possessions. Under these circumstances the Defence Committee recommended that a considerable number of men should be held in South Africa available for service in India in case of emergency.

They had considered the force in South Africa from the two standpoints he had mentioned, and the force for which they had decided to provide accommodation in South Africa would amount to 25,000 men. They proposed to maintain there four cavalry regiments, twelve batteries of field artillery, two batteries of horse artillery, fourteen battalions of the Line, and four garrison regiments. With regard to the garrison regiments a great deal had been said as to their cost. It must be remembered that a garrison regiment had no linked battalion at home and that it did not require a depôt. A man who joined was trained, and there was no difficulty whatever in the man being sent off at the earliest moment to join his battalion. He believed that for South African purposes it would be impossible to have better troops than the garrison regiments. He had had the advantage of seeing the general officers under whom four battalions had served ever since they were formed, and they said that in every respect they had found them admirable soldiers. He was afraid he was one of those heretics who believed that a man who had looked after himself and was generally medically fit was just as good a man between thirty-five and forty as he was between twenty-five and thirty. It was urged against them that they had inordinate families, but from the point of view of settlement in South Africa, that was a great advantage. They would have to spend something additional in providing married soldiers' quarters in South Africa, a considerable sum, but he believed it would pay them well. He believed they would be the nucleus of a most admirable body of soldiers; the engagements of the garrison regiments were short, and there would not be the same incentive to desertion as there was in the case of men who had perhaps six years to serve. Opportunities would, they understood, be forthcoming for the employment of a good many men, even in Government positions, who might be quartered in South Africa. At all events, they thought it desirable, in respect of this force to try, in the first instance, the experiment of sending four garrison battalions. Of these troops some would be held definitely available for Indian service in case of emergency. This being so, he would be asked with regard to the extra expenditure which was caused by this force. The figures which the right hon. Gentleman quoted were not conclusive at the present moment. The right hon. Gentleman included what was now very great—namely, the cost of mobile transport in South Africa, not merely transport to and from South Africa. Their estimate for the future was that the extra cost in South Africa of 25,000 men would be something like £1,500,000 per annum.

MR. WINSTON CHURCHILL asked whether that was 25,000 instead of 15,000.

MR. BRODRICK: That is the whole extra cost of 25,000.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN (Stirling Burghs): Extra over what?

MR. BRODRICK: Extra over the cost in Great Britain. He was taking into consideration simply the cost man for man; what would be the cost of the establishment in South Africa as compared with troops if they were at Aldershot. He had given round figures. Of course in estimating that they must remember that even before the war we had a considerable garrison in South Africa, amounting at first to 3,000 or 4,000, and ultimately, before 1899, to 6,000 or 7,000 men. Of course the extra cost of those men must be deducted from the £1,500,000 if they wished to estimate our present increased expenditure. But in addition to that, and in addition to the fact that the scheme of 1901 contemplated 15,000 men in South Africa, they were not unhopeful that they might obtain some assistance in this matter. If a considerable body of troops was held in South Africa, in a good climate, to avoid the extra expenditure of keeping them constantly standing idle in India, in a worse climate, he thought they might fairly ask some contribution from India [OPPOSITION cries of "Oh, oh"] towards the extra cost of maintenance in South Africa, where they were available in case of emergency, as compared with their maintenance in this country, where they were less available.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN asked whether the force in India would be reduced.

MR. BRODRICK: No. It had been recognised, as the right hon. Gentleman well knew, for years past that in case of emergency it would be necessary to reinforce India from this country. They were taking a timely step in a manner which they thought would cost least and would be of the greatest advantage to the Empire, by placing us in a position to meet an emergency if it arose.

MR. BUCHANAN (Perthshire, E.) asked whether the Government of India had been consulted.

MR. BRODRICK said that communications were passing with the Government of India, and the hon. Member would understand that he had not given any pledge in the matter. What he had stated was that they considered themselves entitled to ask the Government of India for some contribution in regard to the men kept in South Africa especially for Indian service in case of emergency.

MR. CHARLES HOBHOUSE asked whether under these circumstances these troops would be on the home establishment.

MR. BRODRICK said he was coming to that. There was the question of the colonies themselves, and he thought that nobody could doubt that the maintenance of so considerable a force in South Africa would be of the greatest material benefit to South Africa itself. A force so kept for Imperial service, with the large expenditure incidental to the maintenance of any force anywhere, would naturally contribute considerably to the prosperity of these colonies, and, again, that was a matter which must be considered in regard to the extra expenditure which was incurred, and it would no doubt be the subject of consideration by those concerned.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL (Donegal, S.): Six shillings a day!

MR. DILLON (Mayo, E.) asked whether the colonies were to subscribe.

MR. BRODRICK said there was no part of the United Kingdom, not excluding that part which the hon. Member so ably represented, which had not raised a difficulty over the withdrawal of a single corps quartered in its neighbourhood. Everybody knew that the presence of a body of troops in any neighbourhood was held by those most immediately concerned to be greatly to the advantage of the neighbourhood. With regard to the question of home or foreign establishments, that was a point which they had carefully reviewed. He noted that the right hon. Gentleman opposite looked to a day when the whole system of the Army might be changed;

he hoped that the right hon. Gentleman might be at the War Office, and not himself, when that was attempted; he fancied the right hon. Gentleman would find that it was not quite so easy a thing to adapt to all the requirements of the British Army any new system. The right hon. Gentleman opposite, who had had experience, knew that the abuse levied on successive Secretaries of State for War for the imperfections of their system might be disregarded because it was hereditary. But in this matter they did not wish to attempt to impose any hide-bound retention of old ideas or of a cast-iron system; they recognised that South Africa had differences as compared with other stations abroad in which troops were quartered. Something had been said about health statistics. It was quite true, as the right hon. Gentleman had said, that there had been a great deal of enteric in South Africa, and that in some stations it had ranged up to thirty-eight, thirty-five, thirty-four, and thirty-one per 1,000, while in India it had ranged up to twenty-three, in Egypt twenty-three, and in the Mauritius seventeen per 1,000, and so on. But of course the sanitary position in South Africa had not been that of a permanent force kept in barracks, and they had every reason to believe that the sanitary condition in the cantonments would be very different when the arrangements were completed. It was admitted that apart from the number who did contract disease, the development of the young soldier in South Africa was very marked. Therefore he thought they were entitled to regard our regiments in South Africa from a different standpoint from those which were either locked up in coaling stations in tropical climates or which were doing service in India, where they were bound to be over twenty years of age. They proposed, therefore, to treat the fourteen battalions of the Line placed in South Africa on the principle of sending to them, as soon as they were trained, recruits from the depôts, and in so doing he by no means excluded the idea of large depôts in this country. His objection had always been to small depôts. They proposed, therefore, to treat them as neither sending drafts to other regiments nor as receiving drafts from other regiments. They would be in a climate in which, as at home, they could receive their recruits very soon, or as soon as they were sufficiently trained. He was afraid that time did not admit of working out exactly the system under which the thing would be done, but that was the general view they had.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE said there was one very material point. Would those troops which would be earmarked for India be troops which could be sent to India without receiving reserves, and, if so, on what system?

MR. WINSTON CHURCHILL urged his right hon. friend to say whether he proposed to reduce the strength of the battalions at home by the fourteen battalions which would be in South Africa. Otherwise they would be merely increasing the expense and burden of the Army without any corresponding reduction.

MR. BRODRICK said that the ingenuity of his critics prompted them to put questions which he was just about to answer. With regard to what the right hon. Gentleman said, the South African regiments would be maintained at a higher strength than the home establishment, and those required for India would go at a lower strength. They would have a sufficient number of picked men to go with them. In sending troops to India in case of emergency they had got to consider not what troops they were wanting to employ on the North-West Frontier, but what troops they required to replace the garrisons in the plain from which the troops at the front had been withdrawn. It was not necessary, therefore, that the troops which were sent should be at the highest possible strength and immediately fit for the field.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE said his question was as to the bearing of the proposal on the reserves at home.

MR. BRODRICK said the position of Line battalions would be this; there were 156 Line battalions altogether, and fourteen would be in South Africa. Out of the 142 remaining seventy-one or seventy-two would be abroad and the remainder at home; the former would have their links at home. It was unlikely that there would be any room for that considerable reduction for which his hon. friend looked in order to reduce our fighting strength by ten, twelve, or fifteen battalions. The position would be that South Africa stood by itself, and the remaining battalions abroad would be supported by the links at home. With regard to cavalry he did not think he need say anything, except that their equilibrium would be maintained; there would be fourteen regiments abroad and fourteen at home. He commended this scheme to the careful consideration of the Committee. They had this advantage, among others—that the huts they were erecting in South Africa would not render unnecessary barracks already constructed at home. They would have to ask the House under the Works Loan Bill for a sum which was required to complete these huts in South Africa. These huts would, in any case, be required for the temporary garrison and *pro tanto* the erection of huts in South Africa was not so expensive as the erection of barracks at home. It only remained for him to say one word with regard to the popularity of the South African service. It was very difficult to give a judgment on that point at present. The conditions hitherto had been very unfavourable. It had been impossible, from the circumstances of the case, to make the soldier as comfortable in the past as he would be in the future. They were making great efforts as regarded expenditure, both in recreation and housing, to improve the conditions. Extra rations were given in South Africa and extra colonial pay was given to the officers, and it might be necessary to ask the Committee to increase these items.

MR. COURTENAY WARNER (Staffordshire, Lichfield): Are they included in the £1,500,000?

MR. BRODRICK said he had taken a liberal allowance under the present expenditure in case they should require to spend more. All the questions he had referred to must be considered. They could only lay down a standard which they believed it was necessary to maintain at the present time. There were many subjects for future consideration. Whether recruiting suffered materially owing to any particular decision, whether engagements were reluctantly made or not, whether there should be a large number of troops at a particular station, were all subjects which must come before the War Office, but so far as they could see, in adopting the plan he had sketched, they were taking not only the wisest solution of the present situation but also making a permanent contribution towards the ability of the Empire to meet the claims made upon it. He had endeavoured to make it clear that they had to approach the whole subject without any prejudice and with no undue regard for existing arrangements; but, generally speaking, the proposals they made would work in entirely with the arrangements made for the organisation of the home Army.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN said he had never listened to a more interesting statement than that made by the right hon. Gentleman; but he thought that hon. Members on both sides of the House would wish to know a good deal more about the scheme and to see how the figures looked when put on paper before they expressed any settled conviction or committed themselves to a definite opinion. The right hon. Gentleman's statement was, he thought, more interesting, if it were not more important, from a psychological point of view than it was from the point of view of its matter. He had never heard a more interesting development of opinion. It seemed completely analogous to another development which was, or had been, going on under their eyes in this country on another question. A statesman or a Minister started with an opinion. He was a strong advocate of this theory or of that, but he had a colleague who was not, and in order to ascertain which was to prevail an inquiry was instituted, and the result was that probably some hideous compromise was effected which would have all the evils of both theories. The right hon. Gentleman had himself opposed this policy of keeping troops in South Africa. In introducing the Estimates he made what was to his mind a most convincing exposition of the objections to that course. The right hon. Gentleman had even repeated some of them that day. For instance, there was the cost. The extra cost was to be £1,500,000 a year. When the country was gasping for a reduction in military expenditure, the first thing that was done was to add £1,500,000 to the expenditure by this South African hocus pocus. Then there was the misleading character of the climate of the country, the misleading idea of the sort of lessons that might be drawn by our commanders and our troops as applicable to other climates, other countries and other conditions. There was a certain question of health, the question of popularity, whether the troops would contemplate with any great satisfaction the prospect of being quartered in South Africa instead of in Yorkshire or Devonshire. Then there was another question, to which the right hon. Gentleman had not referred. The moving influence which had altered the right hon. Gentleman's opinion was the North-West Frontier of India. What a useful thing the North-West Frontier of India was! These troops were to be kept in South Africa in order to furnish the rapid reinforcements that might be required when the North-West Frontier was attacked. The same reason was given for the adoption of the Army Corps system, although he could not see what the one thing had to do with the other. He would ask the right hon. Gentleman one question. How were they to be conveyed from South Africa to India when they were required?

MR. BRODRICK: I will answer that question at once. We have satisfied ourselves that between South Africa and India transports will be practically immediately available.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: More easily available than in this country? He would like to see the proof of that before he formed an opinion. But in the meantime these troops were to be maintained in South Africa at an extra cost to some one of £1,500,000. The right hon. Gentleman calmly suggested that India should pay a portion of this. He had had a pretty long experience of this question of India and Imperial expenditure. In the old days we were always able to meet India on this ground—"You have nothing to complain of. We have to keep up a large Army for the purpose of garrisoning India, but, when you are in any considerable danger or emergency, you can call on the whole forces of the British Empire, and therefore the bargain is a good one for you, and you should not complain if the force we find you is rather expensive." But what had we been doing of late years? We had not been maintaining a reservoir of troops for India, but India had been made a reservoir for our purposes. The shoe had been on the other foot. We had drawn on India for any service. When hard up for a battalion we went to India, and therefore he said the old argument, which he used to think a very good one, was gone, because now there was a complete partnership in that respect.

MR. BRODRICK: There is one point which the right hon. Gentleman has not taken into consideration in connection with this matter. This country keeps a Reserve now of 65,000 men, which will in two or three years amount to 100,000 men, towards which India does not contribute a farthing. Yet every man of them is required to go to India in case of emergency.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN said he was arguing on the present state of things as between India and this country. He was only pointing out that the argument by which the particular adjustment used to be defended by the War Office and the Treasury was no longer an argument that could be used against India. There was but one quarter of the world which came with advantage out of this proposal, and that was South Africa. The hon. Gentleman had very candidly stated that the maintenance of this large body of troops in the South African Colonies would no doubt cause a great expenditure of money there, and be of great benefit to the population. Any one could see that. Though he was very glad to see any good thing happen to the South African Colonies, he did not think that ought to be an element in the matter, and he was a little afraid it might have turned the scale in judging the expediency of the course which had been adopted, to know that it would have a beneficial effect and be popular in the South African Colonies.

He began by saying they could not pronounce a definite opinion on a proposal of this sort until they had the facts and figures clearly before them. It was a new idea to maintain a mongrel force in South Africa, not the same as an ordinary colonial garrison, and not the same as the ordinary force at home, but something between the two. He did not exactly understand what was meant by a British regiment being definitely assigned to Indian service, as contrasted with other regiments; but he thought it was a very serious departure from the principle followed with great advantage for many years, of keeping our troops in the main at home and of keeping no more abroad than was necessary for the peace garrisons of coaling stations and other places where a garrison was required. This was a great new departure, and it ought to be looked on with the gravest apprehension and hesitation by those who really wished to see the Army, he would not say kept on an economical footing, but reduced to a more economical footing than it was at present.

The right hon. Gentleman's speech had so completely absorbed all other subjects that he should only say a word or two about some observations which were made by his hon. friend who opened the debate and which were resented in some quarters because they introduced the names of individual officers. He did not understand his hon. friend to make any accusation against any of those individual officers, or deny that they were distinguished and excellent officers. His hon. friend merely brought forward in the House what everyone had been saying in the street outside, that there had been a tendency to promote a certain class of officers to high command at the expense of others. He had heard the same thing again and again before, and he thought that so far from being resented as a slur upon the high officer and distinguished soldier to whom naturally those criticisms went home, he thought it was only most natural that that officer should unavoidably have a habit of employing officers whom he had tried himself, and whose excellence and efficiency he was thoroughly acquainted with. He remembered the time when they heard of nothing in Army circles but the Ashanti ring.

Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman.

It was all Lord Wolseley's friends, and if an officer was not a friend of Lord Wolseley he never could have a look in. If there was a new war in any quarter of the world it was always the old gang who went out. What was the reason of it? It was because they had been tried and found to be efficient officers. But it was a thing to be avoided. He had spoken of it as a natural, and in that sense a harmless, tendency on the part of anyone, but it was a very injurious thing for the Army when that sort of idea got into the minds of men, and therefore he hoped that even the moderate words of his hon. friend, and the fact that what had been bruited about in the country had been heard in that House might not be without some effect in causing even greater care and discretion to be used in selecting officers for those high places upon the efficiency of which so much depended.

*MR. BECKETT (Yorkshire, N.R., Whitby) said he thought the discussion would show that the great interest taken in Army Organisation was not obscured by another question which had been recently raised. He had heard the statement of his right hon. friend the Secretary of State for War with very great satisfaction, though he could not say with altogether unmixed satisfaction. He was glad the right hon. Gentleman had quite abandoned his *non possumus* attitude and had to some extent listened to their persuasions. He was like the lady written about by the poet who—

> "Whispering I'll ne'er consent, consented."

The right hon. Gentleman was moving, slowly and reluctantly, but along the right path, and he trusted that before very long he would make further advances and end by being the greatest reformer of them all. At the same time he thought the concessions the right hon. Gentleman had made were somewhat open to the charge mentioned by the Leader of the Opposition—viz., that they were in the nature of a compromise combining the disadvantages of two conflicting policies. He thought the Secretary of State for War would have done better if, while accepting part of the views of his critics, he had made up his mind to swallow them altogether. The right hon. Gentleman had charged them in the only note of passion which arose in his speech and which was rather reminiscent of earlier debates, with the folly and absurdity of attempting to remodel the Army system, and yet he had himself taken over what was supposed to be the climax and coping-stone of their foolish and absurd proposals—viz., that these divisions should be permanently located in South Africa. He had adopted the recommendation that an Army Corps should be established in South Africa; so far, so good, but then came the question: under what conditions was it to be located in South Africa? He was not going to argue the question for or against, because his right hon. friend was convinced that on the whole the advantages outweighed the disadvantages. As to the question of cost he was told that there would be an increase of £1,500,000. Certainly he should view such an increase with nothing but repugnance, and any proposal of that kind that came from the Government for increasing the Army Estimates by £1,500,000 for any purpose whatever would meet with strenuous opposition. But, while the right hon. Gentleman had adopted this part of their scheme, he had omitted the other part of it, which was the more essential part of the two. What they proposed was that he should establish three divisions in South Africa, reckoning these three divisions as part of the home establishment, and striking off the home establishment the corresponding number of troops. Therefore if 25,000 men were to be located in South Africa, a like number ought to be struck off the home establishment in England. When he reckoned the cost it would stand in this way. If 25,000 were struck off the home establishment, reckoning the cost at £110 per man, which he believed was the approximate amount, there would be a saving of at least £2,000,000. Setting that saving against the extra cost of £1,500,000 there would be a balance in favour of this country of £500,000, and, therefore, this question of increased cost would cease to trouble the ratepayers, or those who wished to see the Army run on more economic lines. He thought personally that it would be an undoubted advantage to India to have these 25,000 men in South Africa, and he believed that was the opinion of the military authorities in India. He was also glad that the right hon. Gentleman had come round to the opinion that the question of transport did not offer any insuperable obstacle, but undoubtedly the question of cost would have to be considered. He believed that his right hon. friend refused to adopt the proposal to diminish the Army by fourteen battalions at home, simply because he saw, as other people saw, it would knock the bottom out of his Army Corps scheme. The right hon. Gentleman stuck to his Army Corps system with pathetic affection but he ventured to think that such was the criticism levelled against it that it would not long survive his right hon. friend's term of office. If he would reduce the Army Corps by fourteen battalions he could then establish the natural territorial arrangements of the Army in this country in which the Regulars and Auxiliaries were massed in certain districts and were organised in divisions, a division being an appropriate unit for the distribution of the British Army.

He welcomed the suggestion of the right hon. Gentleman to abandon the linked battalion system and to establish large depôts in their place. He had been asked whether the recruits were to be ear-marked for South Africa, and whether there would be special depôts for sending them out to that country. He admitted that the question of recruits was an awkward one. Some recruits might be ready to go to South Africa. He had been told by officers who understood recruiting extremely well that most recruits did not care a straw where they went, and that they would as soon go to South Africa as to Salisbury Plain. They could only judge by results. Another point was that if they reduced the home establishment by these battalions they would be able to reduce the recruits by a corresponding amount, and as they reduced the amount, so they would improve the quality and standard of the recruits. The difficulty of recruiting had arisen from the fact that they were demanding more recruits than the country was able to supply. The normal number of recruits formerly required was 35,000, but his right hon. friend asked for 50,000, and in order to get the men he had to raise the pay and reduce the term of service. If he would still further raise the rate of pay and reduce the term of service, he would get 100,000, but the question was what sort of recruits would he get. The right hon Gentleman had told them that he was satisfied with the recruits that were coming in this year. He himself had been told by an officer that he was not at all satisfied with the character of the recruits that came in, but Returns showed that the height of recruits was continually diminishing and that the standard of physique was continually deteriorating. He did not know what magic there was in the scheme of his right hon. friend, by which he could add inches to the height and chest measurement of recruits. On re-enlistment at the completion of his two years term of service, a soldier, if he extended the term would get 6d. per day extra. It was very likely that they would get men who would extend the term of service at the end of the second year, but at the end of the third year they might be quite incapable of going abroad or to India. Was there a sufficient number of men who applied to be taken on for extended service, because, if not, the whole system would break down.

Mr. BRODRICK said he did not think his hon. friend was in the House when he touched on that point, and stated that they could not judge of that until 1904, because the recruits only joined in 1902.

*Mr. BECKETT said he wished to ask two questions with regard to the internal organisation of the War Office. They were told that various reforms had been carried out in pursuance of the recommendations of the Committee. One of those recommendations, he understood, did not work well, and that was the substitution of military for civilian clerks. He was given to understand that there was a considerable amount of friction in the War Office, because of the employment of military clerks in work for which they were totally unfitted; and he was told that the correspondence, instead of decreasing had vastly increased. Then he was given to understand that not much had been done in the way of decentralisation. Commanding officers were not given any greater discretionary powers than before; and they had to apply to the War Office precisely as often as in the days gone by, and they were not allowed discretion in spending even the smallest amount of money. In fact, the recommendations which were the foundation of the scheme of decentralisation, had not been carried out.

Mr. MUNRO FERGUSON (Leith Burghs) said it was understood that the foundation of the proposals of the Government in regard to the Army was that we should have 120,000 men ready to send abroad; and the Prime Minister when he was questioned as to the reason why so many men were required indicated that it was for the defence of the Indian frontier. That afternoon they had been told by the right hon. Gentleman that, in addition, 130,000 were necessary in depôts for home defence, and now there were to be fourteen battalions in South Africa on special service.

Mr. BRODRICK: No, the fourteen battalions are to be in South Africa instead of being kept at home.

Mr. MUNRO FERGUSON: Then there will be less than 130,000 kept at home?

Mr. BRODRICK: The men who are in South Africa would have been otherwise at home. There is no alteration in the total number of 130,000.

Mr. MUNRO FERGUSON said he had not assumed that 130,000 were unnecessary. He agreed with the hon. Gentleman opposite in supporting the addition which had been made to the South African garrison, because he believed that the troops were better placed there than they would be at home. On the other hand, it added £1,500,000 to the cost of the Army. The introduction of new railways would probably reduce the cost of living, and that would reduce the £1,500,000 also. He regretted very much that a proportion of this additional cost, amounting to £700,000 had been put on India without the Government of India having been consulted, and against their protests. He hoped that a halt would be called—after serious consideration between the War Office and the Indian Government—in imposing on India some of these doubtful forms of expenditure. As to the point mentioned by the hon. Member opposite regarding the unreality of the devolution given to the Army Corps, he had had the same complaints made from all and sundry quarters. He saw the other day a statement that it would be three or four years yet before the new War Office premises were ready for occupation. If it were finished a good board-room might be set apart where a War Office Committee could sit and make proper arrangements for devolution, which had not yet been given, although promised, to the Army Corps commanders. He would be the last to suggest that the appointments to the higher posts in the Army had not been well disposed; but sufficient initiative had not been entrusted to the great men to whom these appointments had been given. Unless much greater initiative were granted to these officers economy would not be attained. Reference had been made to Salisbury and Aldershot. He believed that the policy pursued at Salisbury was likely to be a complete success, but he was very doubtful regarding Aldershot. The whole available ground for the exercise of the troops was being so much built upon that there would be little land left on which to manœuvre large bodies of men, and the result would be that millions of money would have been spent in vain. He most earnestly repeated that devolution should be made real, and that the general officers in command in these great encampments should be entrusted with adequate authority to take the initiative. He should like to hear that an addition had been made to the staff of the Intelligence Department, and that the question of quick-firing guns had been properly dealt with. He looked with alarm on all the additional sources of expenditure mentioned by the right hon. Gentleman the Secretary for War.

SIR FREDERIC RASCH (Essex, Chelmsford) said he wanted to say half a dozen words with reference to the recent parade at Aldershot. He could not help thinking that with an expenditure of £31,000,000 the War Office authorities could have provided a better parade than was shown on that occasion and subjected to foreign criticism. After all, 16,000 men did not make an Army Corps; nor were the men paraded, especially the Infantry battalions, fair specimens of the average British soldier of the Line. He could not understand why recruits enlisted within the last six months had been put on the ground. No doubt the War Office had got a better class of recruits since the issue of the last new regulations. One could see that from personal observation, and he had it also on the highest authority that that was the case. But the right hon. Gentleman must know that some of his smaller recruits were called "Brodricks." He remembered that in the old days of the autumn manœuvres, instituted by an eminent predecessor of the right hon. Gentleman, an objectionable sausage was issued to the troops which was called the "Cardwell Sausage." He thought that if the War Office desired to have an adequate display on some future occasion, free from the criticism of foreign military experts, they could not do better than parade a couple of battalions of Guardsmen—he supposed they could get 800 men out of the four Regiments of Guards stationed in and about London—on the Horse Guards parade ground, and tell the foreigners that the paucity in the number of troops was to be accounted for by the insufficiency of the area of ground at their disposal. He did not understand the references of the Leader of the Opposition regarding expenditure. They could not make omelettes without breaking eggs. Neither could he understand Gentlemen below the gangway opposite. They appeared to desire that the troops now in South Africa should be brought home, and that their place should be taken by an Army Corps from this country which would not be replaced here. He thought hon. Members opposite had not grasped the situation. There were difficulties in the way of keeping an Army Corps in South Africa. What was a British Army Corps? It was composed mainly of what he might call babes and sucklings, who could not be sent out of the country. Suppose an emergency arose elsewhere, 15 000 men might be sent to meet it, leaving behind 15,000 babes and sucklings to keep order in the

Transvaal and Cape Colony in the event of a rising.

With reference to the Reserves, if they sent the Reserves out with the First Army Corps, they would not get any Reserves in the future. If the Reserves were sent out, how would they be able to get the Reserves to join the service battalions. He humbly submitted that that was not the proper course to pursue in connection with South Africa. If the North Atlantic and the Mediterranean were held to be unsafe for the transhipment of troops, surely they were equally unsafe for the transhipment of Reserves. If they had an Army Corps in South Africa it would be a local corps with different pay and allowances. The War Office ought to consider very seriously what Mr. Private Atkins thought of the matter. If he were sent to South Africa he would be expatriated, and deprived of all the amenities, male and female, he enjoyed at home. If they were to have a voluntary Army they should sugar the pill. With reference to the quick-firing guns referred to by the hon. Member for Oldham, the hon. Gentleman knew a great deal, but he did not think the hon. Gentleman knew everything. The history of the matter appeared to be this. In 1898, the German Government determined to reorganise their field and horse artillery, and they did so with Krupp guns. In 1899, the French Government, who had used quick-firing guns since 1886, also reorganised their batteries with new guns with what were technically called deformation carriages. Directly that was done, the German Government saw they were premature and again they reorganised their horse and field artillery. He did not think that the British War Office had been particularly slow in the matter. He thought the War Office was right in taking time. He did not see how it could have done otherwise unless it let the country in for very considerable expense. It was almost impossible to obtain details of the French guns. During the Chinese Expedition, the French were so jealous of their guns that they placed sentries about them, and the same applied to the manœuvres of the French Army. In this matter the right hon. Gentleman and his Department had shown a great deal of masterly inactivity; and a considerable saving had been effected by the delay.

MR. HARWOOD (Bolton) said he rose to call attention to the way in which the War Office dealt with canteens. His excuse for raising that matter was that it was of much more importance than would be thought by those who did not understand the matter. The canteen system had a great deal to do with the physical enjoyment and the moral welfare of the soldiers. The Government, he thought, quite recognised that. He recognised that it was a difficult matter to deal with, and that the problem had not yet been satisfactorily solved. The Government acknowledged that they had been drifting in the wrong direction in this matter, and all who had studied it knew that the canteen system was going from bad to worse. They were gradually getting into the grip of the monopolists and the soldiers' welfare suffered. The Government had appointed a Committee, but he was not going to complain that the Government had not adopted its recommendations. What he did complain of was that the Government had abandoned the whole problem. They had taken their hands off the oars and they had let the boat drift on to the cataract. It would have been far better if they had not touched the matter at all, because the abuses might become far greater now. It was a thousand pities that the Government had promised to do something, and then with cowardice had abandoned the whole matter. He wanted the Committee to realise what a very important matter this was. When one heard of a canteen he was apt to think of it as a low drinking place. But it was very much more than that. It was not a place which a soldier might frequent if he chose, but a place he must frequent. It was an institution which went to the very heart of his physical welfare and his daily life. It was not merely a drinking place, but a grocery stores. It was the shop for the soldiers' wives, and in many places it was the only shop they could frequent. The soldiers' wives and families depended on these stores. It was also the refreshment house for the soldier. Reference had been made to the food supplied to the soldiers. He thought the Committee did not quite realise that the soldier was bound to go to the canteen or to somewhere else for some of his food, because the food that was allowed him was not sufficient. The food which the Government gave the soldier was barely sufficient to enable him to continue to keep up his condition; but it was not sufficient to enable him to build up his condition from the age of eighteen. They not only wanted to keep the soldier going, but they wanted to build him up. The canteens were to the soldiers what the "tuck shops" were to the public schools. He did not want to create disaffection against the Army in the country; but the Committee would be surprised to learn that the food supplied to soldiers was lower in England and Scotland than that given to convicts and paupers. Last of all they realised that the soldier's life required to be something more than it had been in the past. They realised that they wanted a better class of men, and they could not expect to get them unless they could afford them some social amenities in the shape of clubs and places to which they could go to write letters, etc. Therefore, the canteen should be the germ of something much better than a regimental institution.

How were these canteens managed? They were managed in two ways. There was the regimental system of management and there was the tenant system. The tenant system meant letting out the canteen to some large contractor by whom a lump sum was paid at the rate of so much per head, which amounted to £20 per 100 men per month. The profits thus derived amounted to £1,400 a year, which was more than £2 per head. By letting out these canteens to contractors the War Office gained easiness of management, business management, and a lump sum of money free from anxiety and difficulty. This temptation was too much for Army officers; it would be too much for him (Mr. Harwood) and the result bad. But more and more the canteens were being put under the tenant system, and, if the thing went on as now, it would not be very long before practically the whole of the canteens came under the tenant system. He wanted the Committee to face the fact that there were two enormous evils appertaining to the canteen tenant system. One was that it was practically a monopoly. This business, like all other businesses, had more and more a tendency to get into the hands of the few, and it was given in evidence before the Committee that two-thirds of the canteens under the tenant system were now in the hands of one firm, which was not to the advantage of the soldiers. He had seen a letter in the papers that day from that firm, which would probably before long have the control of all the canteens, in which they said—

> "They had no other outlet for goods a little bit out of condition beyond the tenant canteens."

That was a large firm which told the Committee they had a large general business. But the soldier was to be put into the position that he was to be at the mercy of a large monopolist firm which said that "the tenant canteen was the only outlet for goods which were a little out of condition." They knew what a little out of condition meant. He (Mr. Harwood) stood there on behalf of the soldier, and he said that to place a soldier in that position—first, to compel him to go to the canteen, and then to adopt a system of a firm of monopoly capitalists without competition was grossly unfair to the soldier.

There was another thing which was more important. It was acknowledged by all the contractors who had had to do with this business that they depended for their profit on the sale of drink. They were driven to give these rebates, amounting to as much as £20 per 100 men per month, and they made it almost entirely out of the sale of the drink. They had every motive to press the sale of drink, because out of that alone could they make the rebate which they had to pay. It was grossly unfair to the Army that the soldiers should be brought into contact with such a system as that. Witness after witness before the Committee stated that young recruits were great eaters; that they learned to drink afterwards. When they took young men at an age when their characters and habits were unformed, the authorities took a moral obligation upon themselves.

They were bound to take all the precautions they could to prevent these young men being subjected to temptations which they themselves would not allow their own children to undergo. What had the Government done in this matter? He admitted they had many good intentions which, however, he feared only went to pave that road they were all told to avoid. He feared the Secretary of State was not the Hercules to clean this Augean stable, because in the Army Order issued in June this year, although he said the administration of the canteens should be delegated to officers commanding the Army Corps, he further stated that they might be conducted either on the regimental or tenant principle. What an absurdity it was to give a choice of these two systems when everyone knew what the result would be. Except an officer had a passion to become an amateur grocer he would not undertake a job of this kind. They would hand it over to a tenant who would guarantee a lump sum. They would hand it over to the tenant monopolist. They would retain no command at all except over the rebate. The soldiers might very well ask what became of that sum of money, which amounted to over £250,000 a year. Some of the older officers had pointed out what might be done with it. Lord Roberts in India, and Lord Kitchener in Egypt, had both set an example. Both those officers gave evidence before the Committee that the buildings of the canteens were a disgrace and that no one could expect civilised soldiers to go to such places, and that they ought to be put into good order. Here they had a great fund for that purpose, and both those officers recommended that it should be used for the purpose of rebuilding the canteens. But the War Office said—"Oh no, you must not do that."

He appealed to the Government to have some courage in this matter if they had none in any other. He appealed to them to regard the possibilities. The tenant system was the system in the Army up to 1856, when those who knew what occurred pointed out that the soldiers were not treated fairly, and this House gave up £26,000 a year canteen pay on the condition that the tenant system should not be longer tolerated on account of its evils. The Government now pocketed the £26,000 a year and allowed the tenant system to continue. The right hon. Gentleman must not disguise from himself this fact—that what he was going to do by this Army Order was to put all the canteens into the hands of one firm, the name of which was well known to the right hon. Gentleman. No doubt there would be nominal contractors, but it would be a syndicate, and under that syndicate the private soldier would be robbed and demoralised. That was the natural conclusion arrived at from the facts. He was not a teetotaller and would give every facility to the men to get what they wanted so long as it was not abused. But the Committee had a great obligation to see that these men were surrounded with as good conditions as possible for the benefit of their moral and physical welfare. When spoken to by parents who desired their sons to enter the Army he, and he had no doubt other hon. Members had done the same, had been obliged to advise them not to subject their sons to these temptations. He wanted to see the Army like the army of Rome in its best days, an honorable career to which fathers and mothers were proud to send their sons. But that could not be so until the canteen system was put on a proper basis; until the Army was purified from the temptation of drink and the temptation of immorality.

*MR. LLEWELLYN (Somersetshire, N.) did not know the source from which the hon. Member for Bolton derived his information, but, going by his own experience, he thought the picture drawn by the hon. Member was very wide of the fact. The system referred to, if not carefully watched, was undoubtedly open to abuse. But it was most carefully watched, and he believed that in every regiment where a choice could be made between a regimental canteen and one provided by a contractor, the commanding officer would be only too glad to have his own canteen. The life of a soldier was very different now compared with a few years back. There were many places other than the canteen in which the soldiers could get their enjoyment—institutes, reading-rooms, and so forth, to all of which the men had access, and of which they readily availed themselves. Another matter to which he desired to refer was the obligation recently imposed upon recruits to produce a written character. Nobody wanted bad characters in the Army; they upset the regiments and everybody who had to do with them; but at the same time, if this rule were rigidly adhered to the country would lose the services of many good young fellows who would make excellent soldiers. He understood that the rule was not working altogether satisfactorily. Many well-behaved young fellows lost their character for the moment by a slight slip or a small offence, but under this regulation they had all to be rejected if they endeavoured to enlist. By all means let really bad characters be kept out of the Army, but let the matter be done in a practical and not a sentimental way.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL desired to call attention to a matter affecting the *morale* of the whole Army. He did not intend to refer to the system of "ragging" generally, but to one particular case which was more serious than the ordinary instances with which the Committee were familiar, inasmuch as the victim was not a brother officer, but a civilian. The Cape "ragging" case, to which he referred, had been condemned by every independent journal in the Empire. Even such papers as *The Times* and the *Daily Telegraph* had to take refuge in silence; the case was too strong for them to attempt any defence. He would bring the matter to issue by basing his observations on a reply given by the Secretary of State for War immediately after the verdict in the case, viz. :—

> "No further action will be taken by the War Office in respect to these officers; they have been tried and acquitted on the charges advanced by Mr. Stanford subsequently to the verdict of the civil Court, and it would not be in accordance with justice or precedent to go back on other charges for which compensation has been paid in a civil Court, and since which the officers have been re-employed in the field."

He desired to traverse all the statements contained in that reply. What were the admissions made by these officers? That Mr. Stanford was a man with whom they had been on terms of social intimacy; that this "ragging" incident was not a freak undertaken on the spur of the moment, but a deliberate action; that Mr. Stanford was stripped to his shirt; that he was placed on a table in a public room and photographed in a degrading position to make him look ridiculous; that he was taken out in public view and ducked in a fountain; that they cut off part of his hair and moustache; that he was rapped with a cane until he signed a document exonerating the officers; that two of the officers gave to their commanding officer false accounts of the transaction; and that they instructed their solicitor to inform Mr. Stanford's solicitor that the whole affair was a farce which nobody enjoyed more than Stanford himself, and that providentially they had this document which exonerated them. Yet, after that, they submitted to a verdict of £1,500 against them and £2,000 costs rather than have the matter brought into Court. Those facts were all taken practically from their very words in the witness box.

There was another thing that would appeal to every man who possessed a spark of manly feeling. Stanford said it was a cowardly thing for ten men to set on one, and he offered to fight any three of them, and he protested against the outrage. Much obloquy had been cast upon the gentlemen who formed the Court-martial, but he did not think it was sound because they found that the graver charges were not proved. He had looked into the matter most carefully, because he entertained some doubt as to whether this was a proper question to bring forward, and he might say that he had consulted several authorities on constitutional evidence, and they had told him that since the time of Mr. Cardwell the War Minister was directly responsible to the House for all acts of discipline. Therefore, Lord Roberts must consider whether these men, who had no respect for themselves or their profession, who had acted with calculated rowdyism and deliberate brutality to a poor, defenceless man, who lied to their superior officer, should retain the commission of the King and still be regarded as officers of the Army. Lord Roberts must consider whether the admissions made by these gentlemen were compatible with the character of British officers, and whether there ought to be such a wide contrast between military and civilian standard of behaviour. The honour of the Army was the honour of the nation at large, and discredit upon the Army was a reflection upon the character of the nation to which that Army belonged. Mr. Gill, the counsel for these men, argued to get them the benefit of the doubt upon the charge of indecency. He said that Stanford might have been subjected to a mock Court-martial, roughly handled, assaulted, put into the fountain, but all those matters would not justify the Court-martial in bringing home the charge of indecency to the prisoners. That might be so, but those facts would justify Lord Roberts in saying that if the British Army was to consist of men of honour those men should not stay in it. He did not think the right hon. Gentleman dealt with him quite fairly or courteously in regard to the Question he put that afternoon. On the eve of this Court-martial when these gentlemen were under arrest they gave their word of honour not to appear in public places, but nevertheless two of them appeared at Ascot on the eve of the Court-martial. The right hon. Gentleman said the Commander-in-Chief had taken disciplinary action in the matter, but he declined to give the names of the officers concerned. One of those officers was Captain Williams, who presided over the mock Court-martial in Cape Town. What disciplinary action had been placed upon him who, he believed, was one of those who went to Ascot contrary to the King's regulations. Only in yesterday's *Gazette* he noticed that Captain Williams was promoted to be a major.

MR. BRODRICK: The hon. Member is mistaken about Captain Williams being at Ascot.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL asked why the right hon. Gentleman had not told him so at once. He wished to know if he was mistaken in regard to the Captain Williams whose name appeared in the *Gazette* as having been promoted. He took it that that was true. Therefore this officer did not care much about disciplinary action. Captain Williams was rather worse than the others. He had not the excuse of youth, for he was thirty-five years of age. He instituted the Court-martial, presided over it, and took the photograph. [A laugh.] He did not think such brutality was a matter for laughter. [Renewed MINISTERIAL laughter.] This question ought not to be a laughing matter, and he was quite serious. He should like to know how any hon. Member would like ten men to set upon him. The Major Williams who had just been promoted to be a field officer was the gentleman who drew up the paper that Stanford signed, and which it was said he signed voluntarily. It was this officer who said that in order to overcome Stanford's objection to signing the document that half his moustache was cut off. Counsel put to this officer the following questions—

> "You have said that drink was not forced down Stanford's throat in order to revive him. As a matter of fact was smoke blown up his nose?—Possibly smoke was blown in his face.
>
> "For the purpose of insulting him?—Yes.
>
> "Was he before this paper was signed beaten with a stick?—Not beaten. I saw him rapped with a cane.
>
> "You said in your statement to the commanding officer, 'he was not beaten or any violence used. He signed this paper voluntarily, and he was told that he might go when he had done so?'—He was not beaten with a stick. He was rapped with a cane, but in no sense hurt.
>
> "Is that what you call signing a paper voluntarily?--Perhaps I ought not to have used the expression. His hands were not guided. My object was to show the Secretary of State that Stanford was not speaking the truth."

Then came Captain Hayes, of the 3rd Dragoon Guards, who was cross-examined, and said—

> "He knew Mr. Barclay, of Johannesburg. That gentleman was present at the mock Court-martial as a spectator. Before Stanford signed the paper which had been put in, he was not subjected to various acts of violence, but half his moustache was cut off, as well as patches of hair from his head. The witness did not see him rapped with a cane."

In reply to the letter from Stanford's solicitors claiming damages this witness's solicitor wrote that the whole affair was a bit of fun in which none joined more heartily than Mr. Stanford, who as a further proof of his concurrence joined in the signing of the verdict of the sham Court-martial. This document was afterwards found on the floor and brought forward as Stanford's confession. In the light of the evidence which came out at the Court-martial the ordinary "hooligans" became respectable people.

He did not know any of these men, and he had no personal feeling whatever with reference to them. He thought Lieutenant Prior by his conduct had placed himself out of Court. The hon. Member trusted that after such acts as that officer was proved to have done, no Court-martial of honourable men in this country would ever give back his sword to any officer when they could not give him back his honour.

He sometimes thought there was a public opinion in the House of Commons somewhat different from the public opinion outside, and he desired to remind hon. Members of the comments which had been made on the subject of these disclosures in the Press. In one journal the suggestion was made that the charge was so drawn that the accused officers might be acquitted. He would quote certain journals which were not particularly favourable to his colleagues, and which had treated him with no great courtesy. Here was what the *World* said—

"The Court-martial at Wellington Baracks throws disagreeable light upon the character of the men who may possibly at no distant time hold high posts in the Army. The powers of favouritism and of social influence which have placed them where they are, will probably help them to rise over the heads of men who have no other qualifications than those of brains, of industry, of love of their profession. The seven men who have been acquitted, though by a nice and significant distinction not 'honourably' acquitted according to the usual phraseology, of conduct unbecoming officers and gentlemen, will go back to their respective regiments. How will they be received there by their comrades? As heroes emerging from unmerited obloquy, or as culprits who have got off more easily than could have been expected? What will be their influence over the non-commissioned officers and men? Lord Kitchener has been obliged to promulgate an order denouncing the conduct of soldiers in India who maltreat natives, which he requires to be read periodically before the men by their officers. The deterioration of the manners of the rank and file probably but reflects that of too many officers."

That was the testimony of a Conservative Journal. He would read two letters which had appeared in the *Daily Mail*. In a letter signed "Civilis" the writer said—

"When Lieutenant-Colonel Kinloch was cashiered for permitting 'ragging' Mr. Brodrick established for the War Office the principle of condemning a man out of his own mouth without trial. Why should that principle not be put in force all round? Is the verdict of the 'mock Court-martial' which acquitted them to be regarded as of more value than their own confessions on oath? We are periodically shocked at the ruffianly conduct of German officers towards civilians. If Mr. Brodrick brands these 'raggers' as gentlemen and retains them as officers, what protection can civilians expect against cads in uniform? What would have been their fate think you at any Police Court in London?"

In the other letter this was what an "Australian officer" said—

"Not the least scandalous fact in connection with the 'ragging' Court-martial is that the indictment was so drawn by the War Office as to render an acquittal certain. It would be interesting to know who was responsible for the preparation of the papers, and how it came about that, as I am informed was the case, insufficient time was given to the Treasury to go into the case. As a Colonial, I deeply deplore the effect which this disastrous verdict is likely to have in the colonies. The Australian papers have for months been full of jibes against the British Army and the manner in which justice is administered in it. This affair will add fuel to the flames of resentment and deepen the bitterness against the British officer. It is cruel injustice to the thousands of upright and hard-working officers in our Army to find the conduct of such men as the seven prisoners in the 'ragging' scandal placidly approved by a Court of officers."

On 1st July the *Daily Mail* contained the following paragraph—

"Four Hampshire yokels were charged at Winchester Assizes yesterday with an offence which the defending counsel observed would in other circles be described 'ragging,' an explanation which was received with laughter from the public and from the Junior Bar, which included Mr. Brodrick, a relative of the War Minister. The 'ragging' aspect of the case was heightened by the presence of a number of other yokels at the time of the attack. It appears that a married man went courting a girl in another village and the villagers, apparently inspired by military examples, decided to execute the punishment they thought fit upon the social offender. They waited until he had bidden the young woman 'good-night,' and then caught him outside the village, knocked him down, dragged him along the road for a hundred yards, threw him into a ditch (where one of them jumped upon him) and then pulled him out and threw him like a bundle over a hedge. The four prisoners pleaded guilty to assault, and Mr. Justice Laurence, observing that the worst feature was that several of them set upon one man at the same time, sent the two elder, aged twenty-six, to prison for six weeks, and the two younger, aged nineteen, for a month."

The *Army and Navy Gazette* said—

> "To the practised mind the verdict falls short of full acquittal. The Court is satisfied that the prisoners were not guilty of the charges preferred, and so certified their opinion that they guardedly and significantly abstained from using the well-known expression 'and do honourably acquit them of the same.' This is very much what obtains in the Scottish Courts when a verdict of 'not proven' is given, and with the same somewhat lame conclusion the seven incriminated officers must rest satisfied."

The *Broad Arrow* spoke still more strongly on the subject.

He asked the Secretary of State for War a Question a few days ago with reference to the imprisonment of a Boer officer at Trichinopoly. The right hon. Gentleman was not there, but his substitute gave an answer in that breezy manner which always suggested "On Stanley, on!" that this man had been imprisoned for fifteen months with hard labour for complicity in disturbance among the prisoners of war in camp. As the Committee knew this matter was brought, or rather came, before the civil Courts. Mr. Stanford issued writs against these gentlemen who, did all in their power to avoid service of the writs. An effort was made not to allow evidence to be taken on commission, and a motion was made by Mr. Schreiner, a former Premier of the Colony, that a commission to ascertain evidence should be issued. One witness swore that the defendants had boasted to him that the trial would never come off, because martial law was supreme, and that Lord Kitchener would never let it come into the Supreme Court, and that they would snap their fingers at the Supreme Court. Colonel Cooper's evidence was that he himself was staying at the Nelson Hotel, which was his usual residence; that he was military governor of the Cape Town district, and that he had everyone in his power. He said that the night after the dance he had been informed that Stanford had been ducked in the fountain. He made inquiries and found that no complaint had been made to the police about the matter. Then on cross-examination Colonel Cooper said that he did not report the matter officially. He left Cape Town on the 11th April, and no papers had been forwarded to him with reference to the case. He had seen a notice of the proceedings in the public press. On 9th November he reported the facts to the authorities. In that report Colonel Cooper said that he thought Stanford had probably brought on himself whatever treatment he had received. The commanding officer desired to hush up the conduct of these young men to Stanford. How was that to promote good feeling between the colonists and the mother country? These occurrences took place between 11 o'clock on Christmas eve and 6 o'clock on Christmas morning.

Now while this orgie was going on in Cape Town, and these atrocities were being committed by these officers, nearly all of whom had been mentioned in despatches, what was going on in the Transvaal? At two o'clock on Christmas morning a Yeomanry camp of four companies on a high kopje at Treifontein was successfully rushed by De Wet with an overwhelming force. Six officers (including Major Williams in temporary command) and fifty men were killed and about the same number wounded, and about 200 British prisoners were taken, but some returned. What a contrast between the shame of the orgie at Cape Town and the heroism of the kopje! It could not have existed in any administration except that of the right hon. Gentleman—an administration which had been one tornado of scandals and blunders. The editor of the *Broad Arrow* began a leading article by saying

> "It is idle to suppose that a scandal which was common talk at the Cape was a hidden mystery to the authorities at Pall Mall."

The head of the War Office did not wish to know anything about it. Having obtained information from a gentleman whose name if mentioned would, from his antecedents, command the highest respect, he on the 6th of August, 1902, asked the right hon. Gentleman if he would make further inquiry and offered to give him fuller details. What was the right hon. Gentleman laughing at? The right hon. Gentleman ought to be very much ashamed of himself. This was not a matter for laughter. On the 6th of August the right hon. Gentleman gave an answer which showed his horrid callousness in reference to the duties of his office. He said—

> "I will make no inquiry about it. Lord Kitchener was there and I have full confidence in Lord Kitchener."

Then he remarked that Lord Kitchener was in this country, and would the right hon. gentleman not inquire from him, whereupon the right hon. Gentleman in his forcibly feeble manner said "No, Sir;" and the hon. Gentlemen behind him cheered. He very rarely looked up to the Peers Gallery, but on the very next day he happened to glance up at that Gallery and saw Lord Kitchener sitting there, whereupon he gave Lord Kitchener the full details of this occurrence and having done so he walked across the floor of the House, and handed the Papers to the right hon. Gentleman. He believed Lord Kitchener had never heard of that transaction except what his Lordship had heard from him, during his almost providential appearance in the Gallery, that night. He had left outside altogether the charges of indecency, and he had proved that on the admission of the officers themselves they were not fit persons to remain in the Army. Now he came to the charge of indecency. [Interruptions.] This matter would not be hushed up. Mr. Avory was the counsel for the Treasury at the Court-martial, and in his summing up speech made the astonishing, the amazing, statement which would take every lawyer's breath away. [Ironical laughter.] Yes, anyone who knew the facts. Mr. Avory said—

> "The Treasury was not responsible for the form of the charge which was settled before it came into his hands. And, speaking for himself, he was not prepared for one moment to admit that conduct such as had been described in the case might not constitute disgraceful conduct unbecoming an officer and a gentleman within the meaning of the 16th Section of the Army Act. Conduct such as had been described was most certainly calculated to bring contempt upon the red coat, and everything that was calculated to do that was certainly conduct which was calculated to bring disgrace on the Service. But as the charge was drawn up and placed before the Court, he admitted that the Court must find under it some kind of indecency amounting to scandalous conduct——"

And, it being half-past Seven of the clock, the Chairman left the Chair to make his Report to the House.

Committee report Progress; to sit again this evening.

EVENING SITTING.

Gas and Water Confirmation Bill [Lords]; Read a second time, and committed.

SUPPLY [17th ALLOTTED] DAY.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. J. W. LOWTHER (Cumberland, Penrith) in the Chair.]

ARMY ESTIMATES, 1903–4.

Motiom made, and Question proposed, "That a sum, not exceeding £331,500, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the charge for salaries and miscellaneous charges of the War Office, which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1904.

Whereupon Motion made, and Question proposed, "That Item A (Salaries) be reduced by £100, in respect of the salary of the Secretary of State for War."—(*Mr. Pirie.*)

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL, continuing his speech, said the War Office framed a charge of indecency in order to obtain an acquittal. On 5th May the War Office telegraphed to the Officer Commanding in South Africa to know whether Mr. Barclay would come over and give evidence, and on 6th May they received a telegram from the Commander in South Africa stating that he would not. They knew that a charge of that kind could not be sustained without corroborative evidence, and yet they handed that charge to the Treasury on 17th May, the day after they knew that Mr. Barclay, who could give corroborative evidence, was not coming from Johannesburg. The consequence was that a sham Court-martial was held, and the men were acquitted, not honourably, but owing to a deficiency of evidence. The War Office had in their possession at that time the evidence he should now produce. The War Office framed the indictment under Section 16 of the Army Act, and drew it with the object of securing an acquittal. Had they proceeded, as he suggested they ought to have done, under Section 14, there must have been a conviction on the admissions made by the officers themselves before the Court-martial. He had the whole of the evidence given in the civil trial at Cape Town, and also the evidence of Mr. Barclay taken on commission in Johannesburg. Mr. Barclay was present at the mock Court-martial, and was a witness, not for Mr. Stanford, but for the incriminated officers. He would not read the whole of the evidence for the sake of the morality of the people, but he would show that there had been abominable misconduct, and the War Office had shielded these men because of their social influence. The hon. Member proceeded to quote portions of the evidence taken on commission, and at one point declared that he would not read a certain question and answer, because "in all the literature of obscenity he had never met its equal."

MR. BRODRICK, interrupting, asked the hon. Member if it was desirable to further deal with a statement which he admitted he could not read out to the House, or which, at least, it was undesirable to read out to the House. Could not the hon. Member give them a brief *résumé* of the proceedings, and then say what he wished to say?

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL said that the right hon. Gentleman was too clever by half. He would do nothing of the kind suggested by the right hon. Gentleman. If the right hon. Gentleman thought he could destroy debate in that House, he was greatly mistaken, and he should do what he intended to do, even if he were dragged out of the House. He should not follow the right hon. Gentleman's example of seven years ago, when he got the galleries cleared and told a story of horrible indecency in order to destroy a doctor in the Army. The doctor was in a humble position, but now the right hon. Gentleman was endeavouring to shield these people because they had some social position. That House, despite the efforts of the right hon. Gentleman and of his companions, was still a place of freedom of speech and debate. If the right hon. Gentleman were not so great a man, he should say it was really rather curious that he should attempt to deny him—

MR. BRODRICK: I rise to order.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL: I will not yield to you.

MR. BRODRICK: I rise to order. I made no suggestion——

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL: There is no point of order, and I will not yield.

*THE CHAIRMAN: Order, order! The right hon. Gentleman is entitled to state his point of order.

MR. BRODRICK: My point is this. Is the hon. Gentleman in order in occupying the House with this long explanation of what he believes me to have said and done on an occasion some seven years ago?

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL: That is no point of order.

*THE CHAIRMAN: Order, order! It is a point of order. The right hon. Gentleman is right in asking whether what the hon. Member is saying is relevant or not.

MR. BRODRICK: The point I desire to submit is this. The hon. Member is reading at great length from a document and commenting upon it. If he is in order in doing that, on which I wish for your ruling, I desire to ask if the hon. Member is in order, after a very long speech, in taking up the time of the House in explaining to the House what he believes me to have said and done on a previous occasion.

MR. FLAVIN (Kerry, N.): You do not like to hear too much of the truth.

*MR. CHAIRMAN: I think the latter part of the hon. Member's observations was certainly not relevant. The hon. Member is entitled to occupy the time of the House, but there are certain limits to the patience of the Committee—[MINISTERIAL cheers]—and I hope the hon. Member, who has already occupied an hour and a half, will endeavour to bring his remarks to a conclusion.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL said he was perfectly in order and was perfectly within his right in exposing a great scandal in that House. The Government had no power over the House except by their closure, and let them use that if they liked to prevent him from exposing this scandal. A very great wrong had been done to an individual. He had never seen Mr. Stanford, and he had had no communication with him, but he believed that he was a deeply-wronged man. At the Court-martial he was not allowed to speak to his counsel, and horrible accusations were made against his character. He was called "Matilda" in court, and subjected to other horrible indignities. A travesty of justice had been enacted by the Department of which the right hon. Gentleman was the extremely incompetent head. This horrible and stupendous outrage, and all the circumstances attending it, had been deliberately kept from the public, as many other outrages had been, not for public but for political reasons, by the Secretary for War. He accused the right hon. Gentleman of this perversion of justice, for he had deliberately done his best to burk every means of communication in reference to the scandals of South Africa.

MR. BRODRICK said it was only out of respect to the Committee that he proposed to address a few words in reply to the far too long oration of the hon. Member. He could not help feeling that that speech was rather an abuse of the time of the House of Commons. [MINISTERIAL cries of "Hear, hear!"]

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL called the attention of the Chairman to that expression. If he had been irrelevant it was the Chairman's duty to call him to order. The right hon. Gentleman had no right to say that.

*THE CHAIRMAN: I am sorry the hon. Member should feel so sensitive after having just called the right hon. Gentleman incompetent. Every Member of the House has a right to form an opinion whether the hon. Member's speech is an abuse or not.

MR. BRODRICK said he took abuse from the hon. Member as a compliment. He considered it an abuse of the time of the House of Commons to speak for an hour and a half on a subject of this kind, when there were a hundred other topics on which hon. Members, with a real acquaintance with Army subjects, were anxious to speak. The hon. Member had occupied something like one-third of the time of his speech declaring that hon. Members were laughing, and to other matters which had nothing whatever to do with the subject. He spoke without any feeling whatever in regard to this matter, and he did not propose to imitate the tone of the hon. Member. He proposed to say one or two words in reply to the indictment which he held had entirely and wrongfully been addressed to him. In the first place he had been exposed to criticism because this case was again brought to public notice, and because of the sentence of the Court-martial. He was ready to take full responsibility on both those points, although, in fact, he was responsible for neither. The person who was mainly responsible for any event which had taken place in this connection was the hon. Member's client, Mr. Stanford.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL: You have no right to call him my client. [MINISTERIAL cries of "Order."] Withdraw that expression.

*MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon. Member is entitled to raise a point of order, but he is not entitled to interrupt the right hon. Gentleman.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL: Mr. Chairman, you well know the relations between client and counsel; I have never seen or heard from Mr. Stanford, and I have had no communication with him, and yet the right hon. Gentleman spoke as if I were a barrister who had been feed. He must instantly withdraw.

*MR. CHAIRMAN: The phrase is very often used in this House, and does not necessarily convey what are generally supposed to be the relations between the client and his solicitor or barrister. It is a phrase which is constantly used, and I do not think the hon. Member need take offence at it.

MR. FLAVIN said it was a different matter when the word was applied by a paid official to an unpaid legal gentleman who had a very correct feeling. [OPPOSITION cries of "Withdraw."]

MR. BRODRICK: I have not the least intention of withdrawing.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL again interrupted the right hon. Gentleman.

*MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, order! The hon. Member is not entitled to interrupt. He was listened to with great patience, and the least he can do now is to listen to the right hon. Gentleman's reply.

MR. BRODRICK said he had listened to the hon. Member for an hour and a half whilst he read a number of statements. He listened to him with patience and without interruption.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL: It was very kind of you.

MR. BRODRICK said this question was only one amongst many which the House of Commons desired to discuss, and he did not see why hon. Members who had a real acquaintance with subjects connected with the Army should be debarred from discussing them by this question. These regrettable proceedings took place on December 24, 1901, in Cape Town in regard to Mr. Stanford. He had been censured for not taking action earlier, and it had been said that the War Office had deliberately remained in ignorance of what had taken place. Mr. Stanford had his own remedy. If Mr. Stanford had desired to take his military remedy he would have applied to the officer commanding in Cape Town and placed his case before him. But he did nothing of the kind. He went to solicitors and sued these officers in a civil trial, and accepted from them £1,500 and a full apology. The case, therefore, never came before the military authorities at all, and consequently he had had no power of dealing with it any more than any Member of that House. The case might then have remained in abeyance if it had not been for the hon. Member opposite, who had interfered in so many cases where statements had been made against officers in South Africa with inadequate information, and he took no notice of the hon. Member's intervention. Had he done so he should have been showing great disrespect to officers of importance and high character whom the hon. Member had frequently impeached in that House by question and innuendo in a manner which he thought was quite unworthy and without the smallest foundation. He had it in his mind that the hon. Member repeatedly attacked Lord Methuen in that House. Having such proceedings in his mind, he replied to the hon. Member that Lord Kitchener would no doubt take notice of any disorder, and if he could not deal with it himself would report thereon to the Commander-in-Chief.

On December 22, 1902, Mr. Stanford, after having got an apology and £1,500, went out of his way to bring the whole matter to his notice, and he wrote to him a letter in which he said he was sorry he had not done what he previously had been advised to do, and requesting him to receive a statement of the maltreatment he had undergone. In regard to such a letter the Secretary for War had only one course to take, to reply that he was ready to receive any statement; and he subsequently received the statement, which covered not merely maltreatment in the ordinary sense of bullying and assault, but imputations of grave acts of indecency which any officer or gentleman would desire to repudiate. He then took the only course in his power, and he handed the letter to the Adjutant-General in order that the military authorities should take what steps they thought desirable; the officers were called on for an explanation, and that explanation was at variance with Mr. Stanford's statement. There remained then nothing for it but either to investigate the matter, or to take action without investigation. He felt unhesitatingly that investigation was the only thing which would be possible, or fair to the officers, some of whom had been actively engaged since the civil trial. The inquiry might have either been one which would not necessarily have been public, or a Court-martial, which would have been public. A Court-martial had power to subpœna witnesses, and consequently that form of inquiry was decided on by the military authorities, and all those officers were brought to a Court-martial. The hon. Member complained that the officers were not tried for the bear-fighting which took place, but only on the graver charges of indecency. But Mr. Stanford went to the civil Courts and obtained his remedy for the bear-fighting. In his opinion it would be a very grave injustice if a man were to be allowed first to seek his civil remedy, and then some time afterwards, after the defendants had been risking their lives for their country, to proceed against them in other ways. The Secretary for War had no power whatever in a Court-martial.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL: Who makes the charge?

MR. BRODRICK: That power lies not only by custom, but by law, with the Adjutant-General. He hoped the hon. Member would curb his impatience a little. The Adjutant-General drew up the charge, the Court-martial tried the case, and the Adjutant-General submitted the verdict to His Majesty, without the intervention of the Secretary of State at any stage. He was, in fact, in no way responsible for it. The Court-martial found the officers not guilty of the charges submitted; and, that being so, it was not the War Office that was in fault, but Mr. Stanford, who went for damages, but did not come to the War Office for the punishment of these officers at a time when they could be dealt with. He got the damages in May and did not write to the War Office till September. He deeply regretted these proceedings having taken place, and, after the verdict of the Court-martial, that the hon. Member should have thought it necessary to bring the case before the House. As far as Lord Roberts was concerned, and he himself was concerned, they had not only taken the only just course, but the only course open to them. They secured for Mr. Stanford a full and impartial investigation. Mr. Stanford's word was not believed and the word of the officers was believed. ["No."] He must remind the hon. Member who interrupted that in one important fact that Mr. Stanford brought forward—namely, that he had to keep his bed for many days after the events of which he complained—he was proved to have misstated the fact by the evidence of the doctor whom he called in, and who found him within a short time walking about in the hotel. It was not for him to say whether the rest of Mr. Stanford's evidence was more credible than that; but it seemed reasonable to conclude that the Court-martial might have felt that, when they were trying officers, as it were, for their lives, they were bound to give full credit to the fact that the main witness had himself misstated his own case.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL: That is not so.

MR. BRODRICK submitted that the action of the hon. Member was unwarranted, because the present Commander-in-Chief had shown himself sedulous to a degree to stop improper conduct of this kind on the part of officers. Even with the hon. Member's censure before him he said unhesitatingly that he thought a great distinction should be drawn between schoolboy noisiness among young officers in a regiment and really grave offences. They ought not to be severe over mere youthful exuberance of spirits; but the Commander-in-Chief had really shown that when such exuberance of spirits degenerated into bullying or a system of ill-treatment of any individual he was determined to put an end to such conduct. The Reports now sent in during the first three years of an officer's service as to whether or not a young officer was suited for the profession, made ill-treatment and bullying absolutely unnecessary. Such representations had been received by the War Office, and carefully acted upon, as had in many instances conduced to the great advantage of officers. He protested against individual outbursts of high spirits being made the subject of philippics against the whole British Army, more especially when they were absolutely untrue and uncalled for. Upon all really serious matters, the Commander-in-Chief had taken every action which lay in his power. He submitted that in this case not only was the right course taken, but the only course that was possible or open to them to take in the matter was taken, The officers who composed the tribunal did their duty, and the case was tried in the fairest and openest manner. He believed that the verdict on the evidence brought forward showed that there was the strongest reason for believing that these young officers had not been guilty of the graver charges made against them.

Mr. LABOUCHERE (Northampton) said he was very much surprised to hear the right hon. Gentleman say that he was in no way responsible for what took place in this matter. The right hon. Gentleman was responsible for everything that took place in the Army, although it might be done by someone else. He was the only representative of the Army, and if Parliament was to have any control over the Army, these matters must be raised in the House. This method must always be recognised, unless they were going to lay it down that the Army was entirely independent of the House of Commons. With regard to the charges brought against these officers, when the right hon. Gentleman said he thought they had cleared themselves entirely of those charges, he did not think he was quite right. If he remembered aright there was an application made to send out a Commission and it was refused. He agreed that on the evidence before the Committee the officers were properly acquitted, although had the case been before a Scotch Court the verdict would probably have been "Not Proven." Putting aside the indecency, he could not understand why a charge was not made against them from the facts they had themselves admitted. It was rather a stretch to say that the conduct which took place was mere exuberance of spirits or pardonable excitement. He had looked through the evidence. Had it been mere exuberance of spirits, and the man had been merely ducked in a pond, it would be different, but here the man was positively tortured for three or four hours, according to the officers' own evidence, and at the end he was compelled by *force majeure* to sign a document to the effect that he deserved all he got. The right hon. Gentleman had explained his position, and defended the War Office on the ground that Mr. Stanford sought his remedy in a Civil Court before going to the military authorities. Surely the fact of damages in a civil action did not exonerate the officers from the charge of having behaved contrary to what an officer and a gentleman ought.

Mr. BRODRICK: I pointed out that since the occurrence, these officers had been employed in the field, and there is a well-understood custom that officers who subsequently risk their lives in the field should not have old charges raked up against them.

Mr. LABOUCHERE thought it was a bad usage. He believed that the only reason why the facts did not come out in the newspapers at the Cape was that a person connected with the censorship was sent round to the offices of the newspapers, whose conductors were told not to allude to them. That was unduly interfering with the liberty of the Press, for it was desirable that the Press should take up a case like this so that the right hon. Gentleman might be able to know what was going on abroad. He denied entirely that the offence to the Army was washed out by the fact that an action was brought and damages recovered in a civil Court, and he would like to point out that the charge of indecency was not withdrawn on that occasion. He believed that in this matter the officers of the Army as a body, who were most careful of the honour of the Army, did not quite take the view of the right hon. Gentleman. He was surprised at the complaint of the time taken by the hon. Gentleman, who did not consume more time than was absolutely necessary to lay the case before the Committee. The Secretary for War had tried to get out of specific charges by somewhat generalising, and he had not made out his case. It was felt that something had gone wrong in this case. It was admitted that this bullying and torturing went on for three or four hours, and the public were surprised that in no sort of way under military discipline were those, who had themselves admitted what they did, to be made responsible and punished. The War Office regulations, it should be remembered, were intended for the benefit of the Army and for the public good; they were intended to punish officers—as the ordinary law was intended to deal with criminals—not as an act of vengeance but in order to deter others from pursuing the same course. He was sorry the right hon. Gentleman had not promised to give further consideration to the case, in view of the fact that it had undoubtedly excited strong public feeling. There was no need for vindictive punishment, but he would not have thought it impossible to take the two ringleaders and invite them to leave the Army, and to punish in some minor disciplinary manner the others. He was sorry the right hon. Gentleman had not said that some further consideration would be given to this matter in order that public opinion might be satisfied. With the encouragement of the right hon. Gentleman Lord Roberts would, he felt sure, take some steps to vindicate public justice. He was surprised that Captain Williams, who presided over the mock tribunal, and had since admitted at the Court-martial a great deal not to his credit, should have been made a major; Lieutenant Prior was told that he could not resign till there had been an inquiry. As these two men were a good deal older than the others, something ought to be done to punish them. Stanford had been brought to him by an Irish nobleman, whom he knew in the sort of way that a humble person like himself knew an Irish nobleman, and who said Stanford was a relative. Mr. Stanford was not the style of man he particularly admired. He appeared to be one of those hangers-on in society, with some sort of position, who, like some gentlemen in England, got up parties and talked to ladies about their dresses. Although he was that sort of man, it did not follow that everything should be believed that was said by officers against him. Mr. Stanford's lawyer, Mr. Hawksley—an eminent lawyer connected with the Chartered Company of South Africa—thought he had been very ill-treated, because these officers had been allowed to make any sort of charge against him and his character and he had had no opportunity of reply. He had received the invitations which were sent from Government House after these occurrences. One of the allegations was that Stanford had been turned out at, he believed, Admiralty House; but the answer elicited by an inquiry on this point was that he had not been turned out. Then there was the affidavit of the gentleman who was at the head of the Uitlanders' Committee. He had stated that Stanford was perfectly respectable, and that he would not have the least objection to his being on friendly terms with his own wife and daughters. It was hard on this man that he should not have an opportunity of rebutting allegations which were ruinous to him. It appeared that since he had been in London he had been ordered to clear out of a restaurant by an officer, and that his presence was also objected to at a ladies' military club to which he was taken by a lady. If the right hon. Gentleman could find some way of arranging an informal inquiry as to whether the despicable light in which Stanford had been regarded by society officials at the Cape was justified by facts he would only be performing an act of justice.

MR. BRODRICK, referring to the promotion of Captain Williams, said that in the event of the Court-martial having found a verdict of guilty, the gravest sentence that could be pronounced—removal from His Majesty's service—would have been pronounced. These officers ran that risk, and in view of the decision of the Court-martial the Commander-in-Chief had no power whatever to take any further action. If the Commander-in-Chief had stopped Captain Williams's promotion he would have been punishing him on account of something of which he had not been found guilty by the Court-martial. On the other hand, he did not think anything could show the Committee how strongly the Court-martial and the Commander-in-Chief felt with regard to misconduct of this description, and he particularly desired to guard himself against in any way being supposed to justify conduct of this discription by the statement he had made that afternoon. As to Lieutenant Prior, who apparently had been guilty of another assault, and whose word had been called in question by a magistrate, his papers had been refused, and he had been informed that his removal from the Army must be considered unless he could clear himself of the very serious imputation made against him. It was out of his power to comply with the request that he should endeavour to clear Stanford's character. He knew nothing of him. He did not know on what ground any evidence as to Stanford's character was produced before the Court-martial, unless it was to enable the officers to show that they had received provocation. Of course, he was not responsible for that. He must say that, having first brought his whole case before them, and then having written to the papers and said that he did not wish the matter to be pursued, Stanford had put himself in a very difficult position with regard to the War Office. He had really only himself to thank for the position in which he found himself.

MAJOR SEELY hoped the Committee would pardon him for directing its attention for a moment to the very momentous declarations which had been made as to the retention of an Army Corps in South Africa. He asked the noble Lord to make one or two points clear in regard to the forces to be stationed in South Africa. Hon. Members on that side were much disappointed that no undertaking had been given that the forces at home should be reduced proportionately with the increase of the permanent garrison of South Africa, for they believed it would be possible to strengthen the Army while reducing the establishment. He wished to know were the garrison regiments which were to be placed there to be taken from the places where they now were, or were they to be fresh regiments formed for the purpose?

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO THE WAR OFFICE (Lord STANLEY, Lancashire, Westhoughton): The present ones.

MAJOR SEELY said that in that case the question arose, what would be put in place of them? He was disappointed that there had been no promise of a reduction, because we needed the money. The result of the announcement made that day was that we were going to be involved in an expenditure of £1,500,000 per annum more than we now spent, *minus* whatever the Indian Government might give us.

MR. BRODRICK said that what he stated was that the extra cost of 25,000 men in South Africa as compared with 25,000 men kept in Great Britain would be £1,500,000 annually, but he added an important proviso. From that sum must be deducted the extra cost there was before the war of keeping a garrison in South Africa, and the extra cost of any garrison which it might be resolved to keep there after the war. The Government provided in their scheme of 1901 about £600,000 towards this object, so that the extra amount involved would not exceed £900,000.

MAJOR SEELY said he was grateful to the right hon. Gentleman for explaining this to the Committee; but at any rate there would be an increase in the expenditure, although it had been hoped that possibly this plan might have resulted in a slight diminution, and he thought it was reasonable to ask whether it was not even more important to devote this increase to more important subjects. They were grateful to know that the Intelligence Department was to be increased, but there was the matter of the guns, as to which he thought the Committee would be glad to have some further assurance. No one in the House supposed that the right hon. Gentleman and the noble Lord were not extremely desirous that the country should have quick-firing guns; but, when the right hon. Gentleman asked by what method they could proceed to get these guns without further delay, he would answer that they could proceed by the same methods as those adopted by foreign Powers. The position was exactly the same now as it was four years ago when the predecessor of the right hon. Gentleman said the matter was being carefully considered. He thought the time had now come when the House of Commons really meant this thing to be done; and he was encouraged in that belief by the fact that the Service members, a body not prone to attack unduly in these matters, had unanimously resolved that it was expedient that the Committee should at once be informed that the matter would be carried through, that a date should be given, and, further, that delay was dangerous. He would ask the Financial Secretary whether his own military advisers did not admit that a grave national danger was being run by permitting our small Army to be armed with a worse weapon than that of the great armies of the Continent.

SIR A. HAYTER (Walsall) thought the Committee ought to have some official denial of the statement made by the hon. Member for Whitby that the system of decentralisation was practically being given up, that the powers of the general officers commanding corps were being limited, and that the correspondence was increasing rather than diminishing. He desired to ask how the system of sending auditors from the War Office to take financial control of the separate corps was working; the great object of the system, to his mind, being that the officers should be taught not only to take the financial control but also to take over the supplies and keep the accounts. He further asked whether the audit by the financial controller in the Army Corps was regarded as final, or whether the accounts would come up again at the War Office. As to the Remount Department, he reminded the Committee that in 1898–1899 it consisted of eight persons, with an expenditure of about £100,000 per annum. In 1901–1902 the expenditure had risen to £7,000,000, and the Committee would be amazed to hear that only seven persons were added to control that large expenditure, while for the first six months of the war the Department was not strengthened by a single officer. This probably was a cause of the breakdown of the Department. It was true that something had been done in the way of reorganisation. Six officers had been selected to go about the country buying horses wherever they could, and four others had been sent abroad to ascertain where the best supplies could be secured. He desired to know how the new system was working, and whether the officers would tabulate the information they obtained.

MR. GUEST (Plymouth) thought that all who were concerned in the criticism of the War Office some months ago must have listened with pleasure to the conciliatory tone of the speech of the right hon. Gentleman this afternoon. Personally, he cordially welcomed that speech, as it afforded a complete justification of the criticisms which were advanced earlier in the session. In the matter of the Intelligence Department, the Secretary of State had given an almost satisfactory answer, and in regard to South Africa unexpected success had been achieved. Some Members were rather afraid of the expenditure which these 25,000 men in South Africa would involve, but he was inclined to regard the matter in a more sanguine spirit, believing that when the right hon. Gentleman came to consider the ways and means by which his proposal could be carried into effect he would very likely be driven to the reduction at home which he now seemed so loath to concede. There were already indications pointing in that direction. The right hon. Gentleman seemed to appreciate the fact that it would be difficult to ask Parliament for a larger sum than was now granted, for he had surmised that India would be under a debt of gratitude or a pecuniary obligation to this country, and he had not obscurely hinted that the colony itself might be invited to subscribe something for this piece of colonial preference. It seemed likely, therefore, that force of circumstances would drive the right hon. Gentleman to effect some of the economies in the home establishment which had been so strongly urged upon him during the course of the present session. Moreover, there might take place in the home establishment, an automatic reduction which would be beyond the control of the right hon. Gentleman. The Secretary of State was very sanguine as to recent recruiting. He had stated with considerable, and perhaps pardonable, pride that the recruits for the infantry of the Line had risen from 11,000 in the last half-year to 13,000 in this. But those figures would hardly bear investigation. On March 18 the right hon. Gentleman promised that he would not knowingly enlist men under eighteen years of age or of bad character. Between that date and June 20 the number of recruits was 4,719, which left 8,500 for the period not covered by the promise. If that proportion was maintained, it was obvious that instead of the number of recruits which had been obtained during the last half-year being maintained there would be a great falling off. With regard to the question of re-engagement, he wished merely to insist once more on the point which had been frequently urged—viz., that the voluntary enlistment system would never give the number of recruits necessary for the ambitious Army Corps scheme of the Secretary of State, and the right hon. Gentleman seemed to be realising the fact, for he had practically given up the system of linked battalions. The fourteen battalions in South Africa were not to be linked, and in some cases the linked battalions in connection with the seventy-one battalions in India might be abolished. He was very sanguine, therefore, that when the questions of money and of men came to work, as they assuredly would, and the reserve was built up, the right hon. Gentleman would come to see that, without diminishing the fighting strength of the country, it was possible and expedient to make some reduction in the establishment now kept on a peace footing.

*MR. KEIR HARDIE (Merthyr Tydvil) sincerely hoped the Government would reconsider the idea of imposing any extra burden on India, as the natives already had as much as, and in some cases more than, they could bear. In any event, he hoped the Committee would be given an opportunity of discussing the proposal in all its bearings. Reference had been made to the difficulty of finding men of sufficient physique for the Army. That was undoubtedly a very serious matter, but it was not to be remedied by an increase of sixpence a day in the soldier's pay, or by physical training after the men had joined the Army. Each of those courses was very good in its way, but it would be necessary to begin with the children, to see that they were properly fed, and that the fathers earned sufficient wages to feed them properly, so that when they grew to manhood they would have the necessary physique. He desired to call attention to the recent destruction of provisions at Pretoria. It appeared that, in consequence of complaints as to sickness among the troops, it was decided to have samples of the rations analysed. A case containing twenty-eight tins of meat and vegetable rations was analysed, and the doctor found seven of the tins to be blown and their contents decomposed, while the contents of the remainder showed signs of decomposition. The result of the Report was that 59,620 cases of these rations, amounting to a total of 1,665,382, tins were destroyed. That was a very serious matter from two points of view. The first was that the health of the troops might be very seriously affected if these poisoned rations were consumed; and the second was that it involved an imposition on the public purse, if it could be shown that the rations were knowingly supplied either improperly tinned or of inferior quality. He had no information to enable him to judge as to the quality of the food which had been destroyed; but all the evidence went to show that the tinning had been defective. He knew it was said that soldiers always grumbled when they were asked to live upon tinned rations, and that it was in consequence of such grumbling that the food was destroyed. It was also alleged that these particular rations were knocking about in South Africa for a number of years, and that they became decomposed through old age. But the Report to which he referred completely disposed of both these statements. As regarded the first, the men did not complain until sickness was very general; and with reference to the second statement it was shown by the stamps on the tins that four-fifths of the rations destroyed had been delivered in South Africa within six months of their being discovered to have been decomposed. Therefore, it could not be alleged that decomposition was due to old age.

Now he came to a point in which not only the House but the whole country was interested, and that was who was responsible for such a danger to the health of the Army and such a probable loss to the public purse. In the Report, the names of eight or ten firms were given, but only two supplied any considerable quantity. A London firm supplied 15,547 cases and Maconochie Bros. supplied 20,510 cases, the other firms ranging from 86 cases to 4,512. The Committee was entitled to some explanation as to why these two firms supplied such a large proportion of the actual goods in stock. The information which he was able to gather was to the effect that certain of the firms named in the Report had an equal capacity for production as the two favoured firms, and their reputation for quality equalled, if it did not exceed, the two particular firms to which he referred. He thought, therefore, they were entitled to know how it came to be that such a large proportion of the condemned goods was supplied by a firm which, according to admissions made in reply to questions addressed to the War Office, should not have been specially favoured. As to the question of responsibility, he understood that such goods, before leaving this country, were supposed to be submitted to a test, and that any defect of quality would probably be discovered before they were shipped. If that was so, they were driven back on the conclusion that the rations became decomposed as the result of defective tinning or some other deterioration in the tin. It was noticeable that in every case iron was found in the rations, and unless it could be shown that in some way or another iron was produced by a combination of meat and vegetables they were driven back on the conclusion that the tin was not of a quality which should have been used for the purpose. He was informed that the making of the tin in which the rations were put up had a great deal to do with the matter. He had endeavoured to ascertain from practical workmen engaged in the trade what was the reason for the presence of iron in the food, and he was told that by a comparatively recent process the tins, instead of being made as formerly by hand, were blocked out by machinery; and that as a consequence the surface of the tin was broken, and when hot food was brought into contact with it, corrosion set in very rapidly, and that that accounted for the presence of iron in the rations. Practical workmen said that after the tin had been blocked out the surface should be retinned and in that way corrosion rendered impossible. He hoped that the Committee would see how far that was correct, in order that a quality of tin might be obtained which would not corrode, even though it might cost more.

In reply to Questions asked in the House it was admitted that one of the firms who supplied the rations had been under suspicion, to put it mildly, for a considerable time. He referred to the firm of Maconochie Brothers, the head of which was the hon. Member for East Aberdeenshire. The War Office admitted that 365,000 cases supplied by this firm as emergency rations had been previously condemned, and that in 1900 other goods supplied by the firm were also condemned. In this connection it was worthy of note that when the "Discovery" was sent out on her Arctic Expedition, the only tinned food that went wrong during the voyage was that supplied by the firm of Maconochie Brothers. Therefore, they were entitled to ask how it was that a firm which had been under suspicion for at least three years was still retained on the list of War Office Contractors, and had a larger proportion of orders from the War Office than any other firm. The matter was one which demanded investigation. The other day he put a Question to the Secretary of State for War as to how the tins had been sealed up; and the right hon. Gentleman seemed to treat it as a matter of no account. There were two methods in which tins were sealed. One was by soldering, and the other was by turning the flange over and clinching it by machinery. He was informed that the manner in which the tins were sealed was responsible for the blown condition of the rations destroyed at Pretoria; and they were entitled to know whether the health of the troops was to be sacrificed in order to increase the profits of this firm. Government contractors should in all cases be above suspicion, and more particularly when a Government contractor was also a Member of this House. Then there was a double obligation on him to see that he gave full value for the money he received, and that the quality of his goods was such as to set an example to other contractors. He hoped the War Office would be able to give the Committee an assurance that no further orders would be given to this firm, which had been under suspicion for at least three years, and whose goods had been found to be unfit for human use on two previous occasions, until at least there was an investigation as to who was responsible for the imputation under which the firm rested.

MR. CUST (Southwark, Bermondsey) said he ventured to utter a word of warning with reference to recruiting. They had heard from the Secretary of State for War that quality was even more important than quantity, and that he proposed to insist on character as a preliminary to recruiting. He certainly agreed with the right hon. Gentleman. But he saw it was proposed to receive as recruits boys who had served their time in reformatories. No doubt it was possible that boys who had been sent to reformatories as a result of youthful indiscretion might make excellent soldiers, as an early incursion into crime was often induced by a superabundance of courage and adventure. He would ask, however, the Secretary of State to consider what effect that would have on the sources from which recruits with a cleaner record might be expected. They had heard a great deal about how one bad character spoiled the whole tone of the regiment, and how one crime in a regiment could make it unpopular to recruiting, and he therefore thought that if it were known that recruits were being drawn from boys who had been cradled in crime it would render recruiting unpopular. Knowing what he did of country life he hoped the right hon. Gentleman would reconsider his scheme. There was another point which he would wish to mention. They were told that some record of character should be presented on enlistment, but when a record of character was demanded it should be of some value. He had seen a circular—he felt sure it could not have been issued with the cognisance of the right hon. Gentleman—giving the official interpretation of the regulations to which the right hon. Gentleman had alluded that evening in such moving terms. That circular stated that the character of recruits might be obtained from any responsible person, and need not necessarily be written. For instance, the circular continued, a verbal report to the effect that nothing was known against the recruit was sufficient, and it was added that a written character from the employer need not be insisted upon when such verbal reports were obtained from other sources. He admitted that was a very generous provision, though scarcely consistent with the statements of the right hon. Gentleman in the early part of the session, and also to-day. He would ask if the right hon. Gentleman was aware of such an amusing interpretation of his excellent intentions. He felt that a word of reassurance on this matter would be of considerable comfort to the Committee.

*Mr. MACONOCHIE (Aberdeenshire, E.) said he was indebted to the hon. Member for Merthyr Tydvil for having given him an opportunity of showing the matter to which he drew the attention of the Committee in its true colours. For many years this particular form of food had been used in every campaign in every part of the world, and approved by general officers, the present Commander-in-Chief, and officers, and soldiers. In every instance it had received great praise. No matter who manufactured it the name was given to it of the original inventor. He might explain to the Committee the method in which the testing and examination of this particular form of food was done by the War Office. In the first place an independent inspector visited the factory of any firm manufacturing this class of food. He went at any hour, day or night, and took samples when he wished. That was not all. When the goods were packed he frequently took samples; when the goods went alongside the ship, another inspector took samples, which were taken to Woolwich. They were again taken and placed in the hands of the first analysts of this country, who tested them as to the quality of the tin plate, and also as to the quality of the food, and if any manufacture did not come up to the standard it would have been promptly rejected. It was a great pity, he thought, that the hon. Member for Merthyr Tydvil did not study the subject somewhat more before he tackled it. In the first place the particular form of drawing he spoke of had been in use for something like fourteen years, and the particular method of closing had only been in use for three or four years, and could be used by any manufacturer at a nominal royalty. There was nothing whatever, so far as he knew, to prevent anyone using it. The particular form of tin complained of by the hon. Member had been tested to the extent of 370,000 tins by a well known Chicago firm, and it had been adopted by them. As to discolouration and the effect of tin upon food, it must be remembered that these foods—fresh meat and vegetables—had been used in West Africa, the Soudan, India, and China, and had always been highly praised. This particular quantity that had been complained of was probably the tail end of 30,000,000 or 40,000,000 supplied by Scotch and

English contractors. If the hon. Member would go down any day to any factory he would find discolouration caused by heat, which was used to create a vacuum, or rather sterilisation. This was a well-known fact to anyone who knew the business. No matter how carefully preserved the foods might be they did, to a certain extent, deteriorate after a certain time in a tropical climate. If they took the trouble to examine a tin of mutton or beef they would find if it had been in a tropical climate nine or twelve months a redness appeared where the meat came in contact with the tin, showing that more or less it must have absorbed some iron. He did not think that in the short time he had been a Member of the House he had ever seen a more dastardly attack on a Member than had been made on him that night. He said so advisedly. The hon. Member for Merthyr Tydvil wrote him a letter saying that he intended to mention his name. He told the hon. Member he would give him any information he might desire and then the hon. Member calmly told him that since he was not paying the union rate of wages—

*MR. KEIR HARDIE: I rise to order. I expressly informed the hon. Member that that was no part of my complaint. It is a fact all the same that he employs boy and girl labour when other manufacturers employ men labour, which may account for the different quality of the goods supplied. I expressly said to him that that was no part of my case against the firm, and that it was purely as a Member of this House, desirous to see honest treatment in connection with public Departments, that I intended to call attention to the matter.

*MR. MACONOCHIE said he turned to the hon. Member and said that his firm used modern methods in their manufacture; that they never were known to grind the faces of their workmen; and that they would undertake to prove that, although they used machinery their men for years past had earned much higher weekly wages than the workers in any other house doing the same class of work. The Committee would notice that the hon. Member had been careful to mention the name of one English firm and the firm with which he was connected, but carefully refrained from mentioning firms in Aberdeen who employed the men who had instigated him to bring forward this matter.

*MR. KEIR HARDIE said no one had instigated him to make the attack. He had neither been approached nor had he approached any one connected with any firm in relation to this matter. The only person he had seen was the secretary of the Tin Makers' Trade Union.

*MR. MACONOCHIE said there never had been more care exercised by the War Office in testing all the food products which were sent out. He was perfectly confident that the firms mentioned in this complaint had nothing to fear. He had not the slightest doubt that many of them made great sacrifices, and laid by their own special work, to do the work they were called upon to perform.

LORD STANLEY said he would answer some of the questions which had been raised in the course of the debate. First of all he would deal with what fell from the hon. Member for the Isle of Wight on the question of guns. The remarks of his predecessor in office had been quoted, and it had been inferred that, as no result followed then, so there would be no result now. But it should be remembered that shortly after those remarks were made the war broke out, and the matter was for a time at a standstill. But since the war came to an end inquiry had taken place, and trial had been made of quick-firing guns by separate firms and by the ordnance factory, and there had been a conference of manufacturers with Government experts, and a specification had been made adopting the best portions of several guns; and now the War Office had ordered a battery from two firms, and he believed that in the result they would have a gun infinitely superior to any now in existence. The two batteries would be tested equipped as they would be in time of war. He hoped that next month they would have two complete batteries which they could test one against the other. They would then in a short time be in a position to lay their decision before the House and the country. No one could realise more fully than his right hon. friend that there was grave national danger in not having these guns; but his right hon. friend could not commit the country to a large expenditure of money for the rearmament of the artillery until he received from his military advisers an assurance that the gun which they asked him to have made was one which was calculated to fulfil all their requirements.

With regard to the auditors, they had had three reports from each general officer commanding the Army Corps, and each of them spoke very highly of the work done by the auditors in their district, who had not only carried out the audit but had given much excellent financial advice. The audit was final as far as the War Office were concerned. They were now considering whether certain other duties could be devolved upon the auditors, and also whether they could send out more auditors. With regard to decentralisation, general officers commanding did not in many cases realise how much they could do without referring to the War Office. Many of the questions which were sent up for decision were being sent back with an intimation that it was within the province of the general officers concerned to decide them. The general officers were gradually finding out how much power they possessed, and the War Office were considering whether they could give them even more power than they had at present.

As to the destruction of rations in South Africa, the War Office had done all they could to ensure that the goods sent out were of the best quality. They had inspectors at the places where the goods were manufactured, and when the goods were sent to Woolwich inspectors took tins from almost every consignment for examination. Not only the goods, but also the tins, were sent to the Government analyst for analysis, and there had not been a case in which the analyst had not been able to make a most favourable report. The question of the destruction of rations was one on which a definite statement could not be made at present. The first notice the War Office had of the destruction was by seeing it in the public Press. They at once telegraphed out for a full report. They found from that report that, as there was a certain amount of sickness which was attributed to defective rations, the general officer commanding assembled the Board, with the result that the Board ordered the destruction of a large quantity of rations. The rations were accordingly destroyed. The hon. Member for North Aberdeen had said that during the time of the destruction it was noticed that the natives took away rations, and that they probably suffered no ill effects.

MR. PIRIE said he stated what purported to be the account of an eye-witness.

LORD STANLEY: Even if there was a suspicion that some of these rations were good and ought not to have been destroyed, he thought, in view of the report, the general officer commanding would have received the censure of this House if he had not destroyed them. The question of personal liability was not one which could be gone into at the present moment. It would probably have to be considered from the legal point of view, and any statement now might prejudice their own case and be unfair to those with whom they were dealing. It was only right to say, however, that the various firms who furnished them with supplies during the war undoubtedly did their best to keep them well supplied with the best article, and that they should take into consideration that goods which had to go through the tropics and then up country, and had to be left out in all weathers, were not so likely to keep as those which were carefully stored at home.

As to the question of recruits, he could assure his hon. friend the Member for Southwark that neither his hon. friend nor he had seen the document from which he quoted, nor were those at the War Office who were in charge of the Department which would issue such a document able to identify it.

MR. CUST assured the noble Lord that the document was perfectly genuine, and that it was received from the authorities.

LORD STANLEY said he could not ask his hon. friend to give the name of the receiver in public, but perhaps he would let him see the document privately, so that he might ascertain from where it emanated, and by whose authority it was issued. With regard to the question of character, he had always been strongly of opinion that, if they insisted on characters with recruits, they should get a better class of men. But there were cases in which he thought they were justified, after making careful inquiries themselves, in not insisting on a written character from the employer. Those were, he admitted, cases which ought to be exceptional, and he trusted that they would be only exceptional. The hon. Baronet had asked him what were the future proposals in regard to the Remount Department. He might say that the time of the present Inspector-General of Remounts was nearly up, and he would be replaced by Colonel Benson, an excellent cavalry officer, who was known to many Members of the House. Colonel Benson would have some Regular subordinates, and he would be called upon to work out a scheme for the expansion of his office in time of war. There would be in this country six purchasing officers in areas which would be, as far as possible, equal areas of horse population. They would not have regular establishments under them, but they would be called upon to make their own propositions as to whom they would employ in time of war. It would be their duty to make all the arrangements in their respective districts for the registering of horses, for the taking up of horses in times of emergency, and for the supply of the Army both in time of peace and war. In addition there would be a certain number of officers in the colonies, and others would be told off to go abroad at stated periods, and who would proceed to the countries where, in time of war, they would be required to purchase. These officers would be required to formulate a scheme to the satisfaction of the head of the Department, for the development of an establishment for purchasing in those countries.

MR. MALCOLM (Suffolk, Stowmarket) asked whether any plan had been adopted for permanent breeding establishments for remounts in Canada, or other colonies.

LORD STANLEY said that there was no actual scheme at present, although one such establishment was contemplated for South Africa. He very much regretted that the hon. Member for Bolton took the view he did of the tenant system of canteen. He could not agree with that view, and he referred the hon. Gentleman to Aldershot, where the tenant system was largely employed, and where the universal opinion of the officers was that the supplies were good, the prices moderate, and the soldiers satisfied. The returns were far greater, unit by unit and year by year, than under the regimental system, while the officers were entirely free for their regimental duties.

MR. BUCHANAN (Perthshire, E.) said there was one point in reference to the scheme of the War Office for the British troops in South Africa which had not been dealt with, and upon which he desired some information. They were told in March last that the permanent British forces to be stationed in South Africa would number 15,000; but now they were told that they were to be 25,000. The Secretary for War had not stated to the Committee the reason for that increase. Was there any reason connected with the condition of things in South Africa, or with the relation in which we stood to foreign Powers in various parts of the world? Some adequate reason should be given for this change of policy. The Secretary for War had stated that the new policy would entail a considerable increase of expenditure, and on that ground alone he was opposed to it; but there was another ground—viz., that this country was not to pay for it, but that the expenditure was to be put on India. He held that to make India pay the increased cost was unfair and ungenerous. It appeared to him that the main idea of economy which the Government had as regarded the Navy was to get contributions from the colonies; and the main idea of economy as regarded the Army was to coerce the Indian Exchequer. The right hon. Baronet the Member for Forest of Dean had alluded to the correspondence that had passed between the Government of India and the India Office and the War Office in regard to the large increased expenditure imposed upon India in connection with the short service system without the consent of the Indian Government, and even without any notice having been given to it. Every Viceroy from Lord Northbrook to Lord Curzon had protested against the way in which the Indian Exchequer was perpetually being drawn upon, particularly by the War Office. The Indian Government had constantly complained that alterations in the military administration to suit the needs of the Army at home were introduced, and extra charges were made on the finances of India, without any regard to either the financial or military necessities of India, and without any consultation whatever with the Indian Government. The right hon. Gentleman had, however, gone a step further, because he was going to put on the Indian Exchequer a charge for British troops in South Africa which were not borne on the Indian establishment, with which India had no connection, and for which she could not have any responsibility. It was within the knowledge of the House that a British regiment had always been stationed in Ceylon, Singapore, and Mauritius, but it had never been proposed that the cost of these regiments should be charged against the finances of India, and yet these places were much nearer India than South Africa was. He ventured to say that the real reason for the proposal of the right hon. Gentleman was not military exigencies but financial exigencies. The Government had not the courage to face the necessity of imposing extra taxation on the people of this country to meet this charge. Before the final resolution imposing an inequitable charge on the finances of India, was passed, the House of Commons should have ample opportunity of discussing it in all its bearings, because the matter was vastly important politically and Imperially.

LORD STANLEY said he was now able to inform the Committee that the circular referred to by the hon. Member for Bermondsey had been issued by the junior officer in one particular regimental district. It was absolutely and entirely unauthorised, and although, owing to his hon. friend having given it to him confidentially, no action could be taken in this particular case, he would see if anything could be done by general instruction to prevent any such circular being issued in future without authority from headquarters.

MR. COURTENAY WARNER asked whether the new guns would be ready for trial in August, and if the whole Artillery would be re-armed before the House met again? He congratulated the right hon. Gentleman on the action he had taken in regard to the small depôts. The final question was whether the extra troops for South Africa would be taken out of the First Army Corps.

MR. WINSTON CHURCHILL said he would ask his right hon. friend to take into his serious consideration the extension of the special Volunteer decorations to those who had given long service in the Yeomanry.

SIR MANCHERJEE BHOWNAGGREE (Bethnal Green, N.E.) asked the Secretary of State for War whether he would lay on the Table the Papers in connection with the increase of the troops in South Africa, and whether there would be full opportunity for discussion before imposing any new burden on the finances of India?

And, it being midnight, the Chairman left the Chair to make his Report to the House.

Committee report Progress; to sit again on Monday next.

Adjourned at five minutes after
Twelve o'clock.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Friday, 17th *July,* 1903.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

The LORD CHANCELLOR acquainted the House that the Clerk of the Parliaments had laid upon the Table the Certificates from the Examiners that the further Standing Orders applicable to the following Bills have been complied with. Croydon and District Electric Tramways; Castleblayney, Keady, and Armagh Railway (Extension of Time).

The same were ordered to lie on the Table.

Western Valleys (Monmouthshire) Sewerage Board Bill; A witness ordered to attend the Select Committee.

Beckenham Urban District Council Bill; Reported from the Select Committee, with Amendments.

South Lancashire Tramways Bill [H.L.]; Didcot, Newbury, and Southampton Railway Bill [H.L.]; Returned from the Commons agreed to, with Amendments.

London, Brighton, and South .Coast Railway Bill [H.L]; Mersey Docks and Harbour Board Bill [H.L.]; Returned from the Commons agreed to, with Amendments. The said Amendments considered and agreed to

Broadstairs Gas Bill; Hyde Corporation Bill; Leigh Corporation Bill; Great Northern Railway Bill; Metropolitan District Railway (Various Powers) Bill; Midland and Belfast and Northern Counties Railways Bill; Returned from the Commons with the Amendments agreed to.

Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (No. 3) Bill; Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (No. 5) Bill; Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (No. 7) Bill. Moved, That the order made on the 16th March last, "That no Provisional Order Confirmation Bill brought from the House of Commons shall be read a second time after the 18th day of June next," be dispensed with, and that the Bills be now read 2ª; agreed to; Bills read 2ª accordingly.

Lanarkshire Tramways Order Confirmation Bill [H.L.]. Read 3ª (according to Order); Amendments made; Bill passed, and sent to the Commons.

Drainage and Improvement of Lands (Ireland) Provisional Order Bill. Moved, That the order made on the 16th day of March last, "That no Provisional Order Confirmation Bill brought from the House of Commons shall be read a second time after the 18th day of June next," be dispensed with, and that the Bill be now read 2ª; agreed to; Bill read 2ª accordingly, and committed to a Committee of the Whole House on Tuesday next.

Pier and Harbour Provisional Orders (No. 5) Bill. Read 3ª (according to Order), with the Amendment, and passed, and returned to the Commons.

Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (No. 3) Bill; Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (No. 7) Bill; Committed to a Committee of the Whole House on Tuesday next.

Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (No. 5) Bill. Committed: The Committee to be proposed by the Committee of Selection.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

TREATY SERIES, NO. 11 (1903).

Accession of Denmark to the International Convention of 9th September 1886, establishing an International Union for the protection of literary and artistic works, and also to the additional Act and Declaration, signed at Paris, 4th May 1896. (1st July, 1903).

NATIONAL EDUCATION (IRELAND)

Sixty-ninth Report of the Commissioners of National Education in Ireland, for the year 1902.

COLONIES (ANNUAL).

No. 389. Sierra Leone; Report for 1902.

An Asterisk (*) at the commencement of a Speech indicates revision by the Member.

TRINIDAD.

Report of the Commission of Inquiry into the recent disturbances at Port of Spain, Trinidad. Papers relating to the recent disturbances at Port of Spain, Trinidad; Presented (by Command), and ordered to lie on the Table.

UNIVERSITIES (SCOTLAND) ACT.

Annual Report on the state of the finances of the University of Glasgow, under the provisions of Section 30 of the Universities (Scotland) Act, 1889.

PUBLIC RECORDS (POST OFFICE).

Fourth Schedule, containing a list and particulars of classes of documents existing or accruing in the Office of His Majesty's Postmaster-General which are not considered of sufficient public value to justify their preservation in the Public Record Office.

Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROVISIONAL ORDERS (NO. 5) BILL.

House in Committee (according to Order); Bill reported without Amendment; Standing Committee negatived. Bill to be read 3^a on Monday next.

THE ACCESSION OATH.

*LORD BRAYE, who had given notice "To ask His Majesty's Government whether they intend to propose any further legislation in reference to the Accession Oath imposed on the Sovereign by the Statute of William and Mary, commonly called the Royal Declaration" said: My Lords, since placing this Question on the Paper I have learnt that it is the intention of certain members of your Lordships' House to re-open the question of the Accession Oath early next session, and to propose legislation in reference to it. That being so, I beg leave to withdraw the Question standing in my name for the present, and to express the hope that when the time comes the Government may deal favourably with and adopt any satisfactory measure that may be propounded in the direction of a remedy.

THE POLITICAL CONDITION OF MALTA.

THE MARQUESS OF RIPON, who had given notice "To call attention to the Papers relating to the Political Condition of Malta recently laid before the House," said: My Lords, as I understand it would be very convenient to the noble Lord, the Secretary for Scotland, to proceed as rapidly as possible with the Motor-Cars Bill, and as I believe it would be in accordance with the wishes of the House that I should not interpose between your Lordships and the Committee on that Bill, I will not proceed with my Question at the present time.

THE SECRETARY FOR SCOTLAND (Lord BALFOUR of BURLEIGH): I should like to express my thanks to the noble Marquess for the course he has taken. I nearly asked him to postpone his Question but I did not like to do so in case it might place him in any difficulty; but with the courtesy which is usual between us, the noble Marquess has taken this course entirely on his own initiative.

MOTOR-CARS BILL [H.L.].

House in Committee (according to Order).

[THE EARL OF MORLEY in the Chair.]

Clause 1.

THE EARL OF WEMYSS moved to insert words to provide that the driver of a motor-car, when driving through towns, villages, or populous places, turning corners, or passing branch roads, exceeded the ordinary speed in like circumstances of horse conveyances, or when passing or meeting any horse-drawn vehicle, did not slow down, and, if requested, stop, so as not to frighten the horse or horses drawing such vehicle, he should be guilty of an offence. He said it appeared to him that there were two great principles which should be kept in view in legislating on this question. The first was not to place any restriction upon motor traffic except that which was absolutely necessary for the public safety, and the second was to secure a ready means of identification of those who broke the law. As regarded the present law, to fix twelve miles as the maximum speed for a machine which had been proved in Ireland to be capable of going at the rate of ninety-five miles an hour was an absurdity, and it seemed to him equally absurd that the same speed which was applied to roads in the country should also be applied to the streets of Piccadilly and St. James's. He contended that twelve miles an hour in a town was far too excessive. He did not believe that there was any horse-drawn vehicle in London which travelled more than ten miles an hour, even if as much as that. What had been the result of fixing a special speed? Why, the law had been broken in a shameful way. Men went about in goggles and in a ghastly sort of headgear too horrible to look at, and it was clear that when they put on that dress they meant to break the law. If they were not going to break the law but to confine themselves to a speed of twelve miles an hour, why should not they dress like any ordinary person? It was quite clear that they intended to break the law, and he grieved to say that within the last ten days he had seen two members of His Majesty's Government thus strangely attired. He knew nothing to compare to this lawlessness except, perhaps, the passive resistance of the Nonconformists. They, however, before they passively resisted, held prayer-meetings and prayed for strength to be able to resist the law. He did not believe that motorists who broke the law had prayer-meetings before they did so, or offered up any silent prayer. They trusted to their speed, and carried no distinctive mark, so that they could knock down people in the highway and inhumanly pass them by at a high rate of speed. Lord Camperdown had referred the other day to the case of a young lady at Cheam, whose horse was frightened by a motor-car and who was thrown into a ditch, where she was found severely injured. The motorist, however, drove off. He thought the Home Office ought to offer a large reward which would bring that person to justice.

Notwithstanding their experience of the twelve miles limit, some people were desirous of fixing a limit of twenty miles or more. What would be the result? They would simply be altering the speed, but the illegality would go on just the same. Motorists capable of going thirty miles an hour would not be content with twenty, and the public would be in the same difficulty as before. That was why he had endeavoured to put on the Paper an Amendment which, although it did not fix any positive rate of speed, would protect the public if it were inserted in the Bill. The first part of his Amendment was practically the same as the Resolution which he read to their Lordships when two months ago he put a Question to his noble friend as to whether the Government were or were not going to legislate on this question. It came to their Lordships backed by the unanimous support of one of the County Councils of the country. His Amendment covered the whole of the points with regard to which there should be caution, and if their Lordships adopted it the clause would read—

> "If any driver of a motor-car when driving through towns, villages, or populous places, turning corners, or passing branch roads, shall exceed the ordinary speed in like circumstances of horse conveyances, or, when passing or meeting any horse-drawn vehicle, shall not slow down, and, if requested, stop so as not to frighten the horse or horses drawing such vehicle; and if any person drives a motor-car on a public highway recklessly, or at a speed which is dangerous to the public, having regard to all the circumstances of the case, including the nature, condition, and the use of the highway, and to the amount of traffic which actually is at the time, or which might be expected to be, on the highway, that person shall be guilty of an offence under this Act."

The County Councils Association of Scotland had sent a Memorial to his noble friend on this subject, in which they pointed out that in that country there were very many roads which were exceedingly narrow and steep. He thought his Amendment would meet the requirements of that Association. At any rate, this was a much better way of dealing with the question than by fixing any special rate of speed. He felt strongly that the question with which Clause 1 dealt should not be left to the local authorities, and that there should be one law with regard to the safety of the public and reckless driving.

Amendment moved—

> "In page 1, line 5, after 'any' to insert the words 'driver of a motor-car when driving through towns, villages, or populous places, turning corners, or passing branch roads, shall exceed the ordinary speed in like circumstances of horse conveyances, or, when passing or meeting any horse-drawn vehicle, shall not slow down, and, if requested, stop so as not to frighten the horse or horses drawing such vehicle; and if any')."—(*The Earl of Wemyss.*)

LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH: My Lords, I am afraid I cannot accept this Amendment, and I will endeavour very briefly to state the reasons. The noble Earl has covered a somewhat wide field in moving it, and I shall not follow him on to all the points which he has raised. I should like to take this opportunity of saying that I see a good many Amendments on the Paper of a practical nature, and on a great many of the points raised I hope to be able to meet the wishes of noble Lords who have put down Amendments. Although I have to ask your Lordships not to accept the first Amendment to which I am speaking, I hope the House will not assume that I am in the slightest degree going to take up a *non possumus* attitude with regard to many of the proposals on the Paper. But this proposal would not do on several grounds. In the first place, the general idea of the clause is to put in the forefront of its provisions the prohibition against reckless driving of all kinds, and to make reckless driving under all circumstances, whatever those circumstances are, the offence for which the punishment is to be meted out. The noble Earl proposes to alter the phraseology. I put it to the House that the first part of his Amendment is absolutely covered by the general provision against rash and reckless driving, and the second part of it proceeds on very dangerous lines, because it specifies certain instances of reckless driving, and when you specify instances without making sure that you specify the whole, you spoil the effect of the generality of the prohibition in the earlier part of the clause. The latter part of the Amendment with regard to the question of frightening horses is clearly a matter to be dealt with by regulation and not by statute. It is already provided for in the existing regulations, and if those regulations are not strong enough, I am quite prepared to listen to a proposal to make them stronger. But these regulations have the force of a statute, and do not run counter to the idea of the noble Earl that there ought to be general legislation and not legislation at the instance of the local authorities. So far as the precise wording of the Amendment proposed by the noble Earl is concerned, I hope the House will not accept it.

On Question, Amendment negatived.

LORD HENEAGE, who had given notice to move the insertion, after the words "If any person drives," of the words "or being the owner, permits to be driven," said he desired to make a slight alteration in his Amendment. He had been informed that the word "permits" would cover the fact that the owner was obliged to be present; but since placing the Amendment on the Paper he had taken other advice, and was informed that the word "present" ought to be put into the Amendment. He therefore wished to alter his Amendment so that it would read "or, being the owner, is present and permits to be driven." This was an Amendment which was desired by those who wished to strengthen the Bill, and it had the entire approval of motorists generally. Seeing that those who were not motorists, and that those motorists who desired that reckless driving should be put a stop to were agreed with regard to the Amendment, he ventured to hope that His Majesty's Government would accept it. He was quite certain that until the owner was made responsible it would be quite impossible to stop reckless driving. What owners and drivers of motor-cars had got to be made to understand was that motor-cars, however useful they might be, could not monopolise the roads and terrorise over those who used the roads, and that could only be accomplished by including the owner within the clause. They could not expect the paid drivers to show that courtesy and consideration which the noble Lord in charge of the Bill had properly said the other night was wanting on the part of many motorists, if the owners of the motor-cars did not themselves give the drivers an example; and it was not unfair to assume that when an accident happened and the driver drove away, he had the consent of the owner, if the owner was in the car, even if he was not acting under his direct authority. It was a cowardly thing to do, and yet they saw in the newspapers day after day that people who were knocked down and injured were being left lying in the road by motorists, and he was sorry to say that in most cases the owners of the cars were in them. He had been asked to make the clause applicable to owners in all cases, but he did not think that would be fair. He had also been asked to include the hirer: but there again he did not think such a provision would be fair. But he failed to see why the owner should not be made responsible when he was present on the car. The noble Lord in charge of the Bill had said the other night that there was a provision in the Summary Jurisdiction Act on which he relied. Under Section 5 of that Act the provision, which made the owner an accessory, read as follows—

> "Every person who shall aid, abet, counsel, or procure the commission of any offence which is or hereafter shall be punishable on summary conviction, shall be liable to be proceeded against and convicted for the same."

It might be difficult sometimes to prove that against the owner of a motor-car. He did not want to bring in the owner as an accessory, but to make him primarily responsible for the act of his servant if he was on the car at the time of the accident. He thought the proposal a self-evident one. It had the support of Mr. Scott Montagu and other motorists, and he ventured to hope that it would be accepted by the Government.

Amendment moved—

> "In page 1, line 5, after the word 'drives' to insert the words 'or, being the owner, is present and permits to be driven.'"—(*Lord Heneage.*)

LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH: The noble Lord went very thoroughly and fairly into what I indicated the other day would be my answer to his Amendment. But he did not altogether appreciate the point I wished to drive home. The kernel of the Amendment is to make sure of the responsibility of the owner. If the House is satisfied that under the existing law the owner, being present, can be made responsible for the acts of the driver, the case for this Amendment will fall to the ground. The noble Lord correctly referred to Section 5 of the Summary Jurisdiction Act, which provides that

> "Every person who shall aid, abet, counsel, or procure the commission of any offence which is or hereafter shall be punishable on summary conviction, shall be liable to be proceeded against and convicted for the same."

The noble Lord used the word "accessory." I am informed—and my noble and learned friend the Lord Chancellor will correct me if I am wrong—that there is no such thing as an accessory in a misdemeanour. Everyone who assists in aiding a crime is a principal. I am advised that if the owner is present—and you do not wish him to be punished if he is not present—when the car is driven recklessly, he will be held to have aided and abetted the commission of the offence. I am assured that the point is not one of doubt but of absolute certainty. In those circumstances, it being unnecessary, I think it would be unwise to accept the Amendment.

EARL SPENCER thought it would be better to make the matter perfectly clear by inserting the words proposed in the Amendment. There might be some doubt about the point, and it would have to be proved that the owner aided, abetted, counselled, and procured the act that was illegal. Surely the words proposed by Lord Heneage were very much simpler. The noble Lord merely moved to insert words providing that if the owner was present therefore he became legally responsible. If the noble Lord pressed his Amendment, he should feel disposed to support it.

THE EARL OF ROSSLYN inquired the meaning of the word "owner" under the Bill. Would a man who hired a motor-car be, *pro tem.*, considered the owner?

THE EARL OF JERSEY said it should be made perfectly clear that not only the owner but whoever was being driven in the car should be responsible if he gave orders for the car to be driven beyond the proper speed. It often happened that an owner lent his car to a friend, who instructed the driver to go at a high rate of speed. He had been told that people driving from London to Newmarket, a distance of sixty or seventy miles, had stated that they wanted to be there in two or three hours. He hoped it would be made clear that not only the owner but also the person who controlled the driver would be responsible.

LORD BURGHCLERE thought that the provisions of the Summary Jurisdiction Act were rather wider than the Amendment. If he correctly understood the noble Lord in charge of the Bill, not only the owner of the car but any other person sitting on the car who might instruct the driver to go faster would come under that Act.

THE LORD CHANCELLOR (THE EARL OF HALSBURY): I do not think, with all respect to the noble Earl the Leader of the Opposition, that the proposition laid down by my noble friend the Secretary for Scotland can be doubted by any lawyer. It is one of the cardinal principles of the criminal law that there is no such thing as an accessory. Anybody, whether the owner or not, who aids and incites the driver to go at an excessive speed, will be responsible. I think it would be an undesirable thing to cut down and qualify the responsibility which the law casts upon all persons who, having the power of either persuasion, inducement, or command, encourage others to commit an offence, and who are made principals in the first degree.

THE EARL OF CAMPERDOWN said he apprehended, from the speeches that had been made, that there was no difference of opinion with regard to the matters of fact. Every one wished, apparently, to make the owner liable. The "owner" was mentioned in the Act of 1865, and surely it was very much better that he should be mentioned in this Act. If there was any objection at all, it was that they would be thereby making the Bill less stringent; but they were all anxious that the owner should be liable. If his noble friend proceeded to a division he would support him.

THE EARL OF CREWE drew attention to a later Amendment on the Paper in the name of Lord Balfour of Burleigh, to move to insert after Clause 9 the words—

> "Nothing in this Act shall affect any liability of the driver or owner of a motor-car by virtue of any statute or at common law."

In that case the noble Lord used the word "owner."

LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH: My objection is not to the use of the word "owner," but I am afraid that by putting in that word you will afford a loophole of escape for the man who is on the car but who is not the owner.

LORD MONTAGU OF BEAULIEU said that while he regarded the Amendment as an excellent one, the position taken up by Lord Balfour was much stronger as giving better protection to the public.

On Question, their Lordships divided:—Contents 17; Not-Contents 95.

CONTENTS.

Ripon, M.

Camperdown, E.
Crewe, E.
Jersey, E.
Kilmorey, E.
Rosslyn, E.

Spencer, E.

Heneage, L. [*Teller.*]
Herries, L.
Kelvin, L.
Kilmarnock, L. (*E. Erroll.*)
Manners of Haddon, L. (*M. Granby.*) [*Teller.*]

Sandhurst, L.
Sherborne, L.
Thring, L.
Tweedmouth, L.
Willoughby de Broke, L.

NOT-CONTENTS.

Halsbury, E. (*L. Chancellor.*)
Devonshire, D. (*L. President.*)

Grafton, D.
Portland, D.
Wellington, D.

Abercorn, M. (*D. Abercorn.*)
Bath, M.
Lansdowne, M.

Pembroke and Montgomery, E. (*L. Steward.*)
Clarendon, E. (*L. Chamberlain.*)
Abingdon, E.
Ancaster, E.
Beauchamp, E.
Cairns, E.
Carnwath, E.
Chesterfield, E.

Coventry, E.
Craven, E.
Dartmouth, E.
Dartrey, E.
Denbigh, E.
Derby, E.
Doncaster, E. (*D. Buccleuch and Queensberry.*)
Eldon, E.
Feversham, E.

Hardwicke, E.
Harewood, E.
Ilchester, E.
Leven and Melville, E.
Lytton, E.
Malmesbury, E.
Mar and Kellie, E.
Mayo, E.
Morley, E.
Onslow, E.
Powis, E.
Romney, E.
Waldegrave, E. [*Teller.*]
Westmeath, E.
Yarborough, E.

Churchill, V. [*Teller.*]
Cross, V.
Goschen, V.
Hampden, V.
Hutchinson, V. (*E. Donoughmore.*)
Portman, V.
Ridley, V.

Abinger, L.
Balfour, L.
Barnard, L.
Belhaven and Stenton, L.
Belper, L.
Braye, L.
Brougham and Vaux, L.
Burghclere, L.
Burton, L.
Calthorpe, L.
Carysfort, L. (*E. Carysfort.*)
Clanwilliam, L. (*E. Clanwilliam.*)
Clonbrock, L.
Colchester, L.
Congleton, L.
De Mauley, L.
Dunboyne, L.
Ellenborough, L.
Foley, L.
Glenesk, L.
Grenfell, L.
Hatherton, L.
Hawkesbury, L.
Kinnaird, L.
Lawrence, L.
Lindley, L.
Ludlow, L.
Macnaghten, L.
Meldrum, L. (*M. Huntly.*)
Monkswell, L.
Montagu of Beaulieu, L.
Mostyn, L.
Muncaster, L.
Norton, L.
Oranmore and Browne, L.
Reay, L.
Ribblesdale, L.
Robertson, L.
Savile, L.
Shute, L. (*V. Barrington.*)
Stanmore, L.
Tredegar, L.
Ventry, L.
Wemyss, L. (*E. Wemyss.*)
Wenlock, L.
Windsor, L.
Wrottesley, L.
Zouche of Haryngworth, L.

THE EARL OF JERSEY, who had an Amendment on the Paper to insert, after the words, "If any person drives," the words, "or causes to be driven," said that in view of the division which had just been taken, which had not been encouraging, and the statement of the Lord Chancellor that everyone in a car the driver of which exceeded the proper limit would be held liable to fine and imprisonment, he did not think it worth while moving his Amendment.

THE LORD CHANCELLOR: I am afraid I must protest against that version of what I said.

THE EARL OF ROSSLYN asked the Lord Chancellor if he would answer the Question which he had put to the noble Lord in charge of the Bill—namely, what was the real meaning of the word "owner?"

THE LORD CHANCELLOR: I take it that the ordinary meaning of the word "owner" is that which is put in the Act of Parliament and interpreted by it; but that does not decide the question as to who is responsible. Anybody who aids, abets, and assists in any way by his presence and knowledge of what is being done would be a principal misdemeanant. That is why I think all words limiting their responsibility would be calculated to interfere with the efficiency of the Bill.

THE MARQUESS OF BATH moved an Amendment to make the Bill apply not only on a public highway, but also "on any roadway to which the public have, or are granted, access." He explained that his Amendment was drafted for the purpose of preventing a motorist escaping responsibility for an offence owing to a technicality. There were a number of roads in the country which, while they were of a public nature, did not actually come under the definition of a public highway, and it was certainly very desirable that they should be included in the Bill. There was another class of roads which he desired to include—namely, those roads to which the public were granted access by their owners. He might be told that there was the remedy of closing the roads, but he urged on their Lordships that it would only be fair to give the landowners in those cases the opportunity of taking advantage of the law of the land, and so avoiding what must always be to them an unpleasant necessity.

Amendment moved—

> "In page 1, line 5, after the word 'highway' to insert the words 'or on any roadway to which the pubic have, or are granted, access.'"—(*The Marquess of Bath.*)

LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH: I have great sympathy with the object which the noble Marquess has in view, and I think he has hit a point on which the Bill requires some Amendment. I am quite sure that none of your Lordships who open private roads to the general use of the public would desire to take the unpleasant course of closing them in order to exclude riotous drivers of motor-cars. I am prepared to accept the Amendment if the words "have or" are omitted, and if the noble Marquess will alter it to read, "or on any roadway to which the public are granted access."

THE MARQUESS OF BATH expressed his willingness to accept the suggested alteration.

Amendment, as amended, agreed to.

THE EARL OF CAMPERDOWN moved to insert after "recklessly," "or at a speed exceeding twenty miles an hour." Supposing these words for the moment to have been inserted the clause would read in this way—

> "If any person drives a motor-car on a public highway, or on any roadway to which the public are granted access, recklessly, or at a speed exceeding twenty miles an hour, or at a speed which is dangerous to the public," etc.

He thought that would make the meaning of the clause quite clear. His Amendment did not give, as had been erroneously supposed, any permission to motor-car drivers to drive at a speed of twenty miles an hour, irrespective of whether that would be reckless or dangerous; but what it did enact positively was this: that in no circumstances should a motor-car exceed the speed of twenty miles an hour. The Bill, as it stood, altered the law; in fact, it exactly reversed the law. At the present time the law, when taken with the regulations which had been made by the Local Government Board, was that when a car exceeded a speed of twelve miles an hour the driver was liable to be summoned. This Bill, as it now stood, proposed to reverse that, and to leave the limit of speed entirely within the option and at the discretion of the driver, subject only to this, that he did not drive recklessly or at a speed which was dangerous. The question whether he drove recklessly or at a speed which was dangerous was a matter which he presumed would have to be decided by the magistrates before whom the case came. But those magistrates would not have been there, and would have to form their opinion upon the evidence brought

before them, whatever it might be. He had some hesitation in putting this Amendment on the Paper because the noble Lord in charge of the Bill had said, on the Second Reading, that the Government were opposed to any Amendment which fixed a speed limit. He listened very carefully to the arguments which the noble Lord then used, and he had read them since. He had read them with every desire to be convinced, but, after full consideration of the noble Lord's arguments, he could not arrive at the conclusion that there was really anything in them. In the first place, let them consider for a moment what was the logic of the Local Government Board with regard to this matter. They said that under the present law motorists were limited to twelve miles an hour, but that there was considerable difficulty in finding out whether a car was going at twelve miles an hour or at sixteen miles an hour. What was it they now proposed? Why, that motorists were to be allowed to go at any speed they liked, subject to magistrates being able to fine them for driving recklessly or furiously. Therefore, the law was absolutely changed, and the discretion was entirely placed, in the first instance at all events, in the driver.

What were the arguments to which the noble Lord had called attention against fixing a speed limit? He said that any limit must be in some cases excessive and in others unduly restrictive. The first part did not matter; it was not to the argument. Undoubtedly there would be some cases in which a twenty miles limit would be excessive, but that, of course, was on the other side of the question. But where were the cases in which a speed of twenty miles would be unduly restrictive? In what sense could it be said that a speed of twenty miles was unduly restrictive? Anyone other than a motorist who drove at twenty miles an hour on the high roads would be immediately brought up for furious driving, and why should drivers of motor-cars desire to go at these enormous speeds? They were all agreed that the roads in this country were not intended, and were not suited, for these very great speeds; and the only reason he understood

Lord Balfour to give the other night why these speeds should be permitted at all was, that there were places like Salisbury Plain. But there were not many of them. Suppose a noble Lord or a farmer was driving in a dog-cart over Salisbury Plain and was met by a motor-car going at the rate of forty miles an hour. It might be said that they ought not to object, because the motorist had such control over his car that he could pull it up immediately. But he did not pull it up. Not once in four times had motor-cars which he had met altered their speed on approaching him. Indeed, the drivers argued that it was safer to pass horses going at a tolerably good speed than at a slow speed. That might be so, but when on horseback and being passed by a motor-car, he had very often had a strong feeling that in a very few seconds he would be at the bottom of a ditch. The noble Lord had said that it was only reasonable freedom to place the discretion as to speed in the hands of the driver; to him it appeared an unreasonable licence.

So much for the arguments against fixing a speed limit. What were the positive arguments in favour of such a limit? First, the narrowness of many of the roads and lanes in the country. Secondly, a speed limit of twenty miles an hour was a great increase on the limit allowed by the present law. He quite admitted that a restriction to twelve miles was unreasonable, but when they had added to that by 66 per cent., and made it up to twenty miles, he submitted that they really were giving to the drivers of motor-cars every power that any reasonable man could desire. In the event of a driver being brought up for reckless driving, it would be perfectly competent to him to plead that while he was going forty miles an hour an accident did occur, no doubt, but that the way he was driving was not dangerous and not reckless. He might say that the car was perfectly under his control, and that the speed at which he was driving was not, in his opinion, dangerous to the public. He submitted that the roads being what they were, and the traffic of the country what it was, it was neither reasonable nor desirable that a driver should be able to put forward a plea of that sort. To drive a motor-car at anything over twenty miles an hour upon narrow roads was unfair to the rest of the traffic. He believed that the public would demand that there should be some speed limit. They all knew that at the present time motor-cars constituted a terror in suburban districts. Instances had occurred since he last addressed their Lordships of drivers causing accidents and making off, thereby getting scot-free. Further, there was the great and serious dust nuisance. Lord Balfour had said the other night that they could not deal with the question of dust. It was true that they could not deal with it directly, but they could indirectly. He contended that if they allowed cars to run at a very great speed they were thereby increasing this particular nuisance, which very greatly deteriorated the value of the houses on the margins of the roads. It was for these reasons that he believed there should be a speed limit, and the speed limit which he proposed appeared to be a reasonable one.

Amendment moved—

"In page 1, line 6, after the word 'recklessly,' to insert the words 'or at a speed exceeding twenty miles an hour.'"—(*The Earl of Camperdown.*)

LORD HERRIES, who had an Amendment on the Paper to the same effect, said that if any member of the Government would go to any agricultural meeting or County Council meeting in the country, he would find that there was a very strong feeling in favour of a speed limit. He thought twenty miles an hour fast enough for anyone to travel. They were told that motor-cars were likely to be more numerous. Lord Rosebery had stated, when the Bill was introduced, that before long there would be three times as many motor-cars on the roads, and the danger would then be increased threefold. Was not that a matter for serious consideration? Were the people to be driven off the roads altogether by motor-cars? In many parts of the country there were bye-lanes branching on to main roads which were concealed by trees and high hedges, and it was impossible for motorists going at a high rate of speed to see pedestrians or vehicles emerging from these lanes. He believed that fully 90 per cent. of the people in the country were in favour of fixing a speed limit. Why should their Lordships, because many of them had motor-cars of their own, interfere with the enjoyment of the roads by their fellow citizens? If people wanted to travel at a greater speed than twenty miles an hour, they should go by train. Electric trams would not be allowed to travel along the highways at anything like forty miles an hour, and why should motor-cars, which were quite as dangerous? He hoped His Majesty's Government would agree to fix the speed limit at twenty miles an hour.

THE EARL OF MAYO said that motors were being put under very heavy restrictions indeed under this Bill, and if motorists were put under these protective penalties, at least they might be allowed to choose their pace so long as they did not drive recklessly. With regard to the question of dust, of which grievance Lord Camperdown had more than once complained, there would be just as much dust thrown up by a motor going at the rate of twenty miles an hour as by a motor going fifty miles an hour. He pointed out that under Clause 5 power was given to restrict the speed at dangerous parts by regulations of the Local Government Board. The Bill would be absolutely killed if the speed limit proposed were put in, and he hoped it would not be accepted.

LORD KELVIN said the noble Earl who had just spoken had answered the only reasonable objection that could be made against the Amendment by pointing out that Clause 5 provided for the local authority making exceptions to the proposed restriction of twenty miles an hour. It surely could not be contended that a speed of more than twenty miles an hour was safe for the public in the lanes and on the roads of this country. If the Amendment was rejected the House would incur a very grave responsibility. Under Clause 5 the local authority could suggest that in certain places a higher speed might be allowed, and the limit could be enlarged in such places. The motor industry had been mentioned several times in the course of that debate, but the noble Lord in charge of the Bill had clearly pointed out that the object of the Bill was not to promote the motor-making industry, though there was no desire to do anything which would be unfair to that industry. He felt convinced that the motor industry would never have justice done to it while motor-cars remained rich men's toys. Whilst he would not mind going across Salisbury Plain at ninety miles an hour, he would not allow himself to be taken more than twenty miles an hour along any ordinary road, straight or bent, narrow or broad. He trusted the Government would accept the Amendment, remembering that Clause 5 enabled regulations to be made extending that speed where it could safely be extended.

LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH: My Lords, I venture to think it might be convenient if, at this stage, but without the slightest desire to cut short the discussion on this point, I were to state the views which, after listening to the arguments put forward, both on a former occasion and to-day, I have come to and am entitled to express on behalf of the Government. We have reached in this Amendment perhaps the most critical point we have to decide. It is certainly the point around which the largest amount of controversy centres, and one upon which it is not difficult to see that there is a very strong feeling in both directions. I am rather sorry that the main line of the discussion has come upon this particular Amendment, because it is not really germane to this clause. But I will not raise any technical objection, as I am anxious that the Committee should decide this question on its merits and with a full knowledge of the real importance which underlies it. The framework of this clause—and this is, in fact, the most important clause in the Bill—is designed for the purpose of getting away from the present position of matters, which the Government think wrong, and a very essential part of which is the fixing of an arbitrary limit of speed; and the object of the clause is to put the onus of reckless driving upon the offender irrespective of any such limit. I am bound to say that I am not moved from the general position which I ventured to take up the other night by any of the arguments which I have heard advanced to-day. I adhere most strongly to the view that in the nature of things it is absolutely impossible to fix any general limit of speed which would be suitable in the circumstances of every case.

LORD KELVIN: The Amendment would not absolutely fix a speed limit because it would be liable to extension under Clause 5.

LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH: I will come in a moment to Clause 5. The facts of the case as they at present stand are that the Act of Parliament says you shall not go beyond fourteen miles an hour, which has been reduced by the Local Government Board Regulations to twelve miles an hour. Now, obviously, that can only fit a certain class of circumstances, and even the noble Earl who has moved this Amendment, and who has taken the lead against the motor craft to some extent in this House, admits that twelve miles is too narrow a limit and is willing to raise it to twenty. I am of opinion that there are many cases of open and straight roads where, having regard to the fact that motor-cars, as now made, are extraordinarily well under control, twenty miles an hour need not be a reckless or a dangerous speed. The noble Lord on the Cross Benches who spoke last said that nothing would induce him to go at a higher speed. I cannot say whether I have ever been at a speed of twenty miles an hour. If I knew, I do not suppose I should confess it, but the prospect of going twenty miles an hour has no great attractions for me. I do not own a motor car. But if it has attractions for some people, and if they can do it without reckless or dangerous driving, there is nothing criminal in it. Why should they not, under suitable circumstances, be allowed to indulge their fancy? If we were on Clause 5, which is really the speed limit clause, I should be able to show that in some quarters that clause has been misunderstood. Upon that clause I am prepared, on the part of the Government, to offer substantial concessions. It has been supposed that that clause prohibits the municipal authority from scheduling the whole of their borough and confining the maximum speed of motor-cars within those limits to twelve or fourteen miles an hour. If there is any doubt on that point I am prepared to make it perfectly clear. I am ready to make it clear that a County Council, if it has a long stretch of narrow or bent roads, may schedule the whole of those narrow or bent roads.

THE EARL OF CAMPERDOWN: The whole country?

LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH: The whole of its narrow or bent roads, but I am not prepared to allow a County Council out of pure opposition to the craft of motoring to schedule the whole of its area, without regard to the particular circumstances of the case. I venture to hope that the House will reject the Amendment as not necessary in the interests of the public. Every legitimate interest of the public can be met by an extension or Amendment of Clause 5. I venture to put it again to the House that the only really efficient remedy—and I think all experience proves that it is a better remedy than the one we have now got—for reckless driving is to make the offence depend on the circumstances of each case. A man can be fined or imprisoned if he goes at ten miles an hour in a dangerous place, and the safeguard to the public is that the pace of the car should be suited to the locality and the circumstances of the case. I venture to put this point—and I believe it to be a point of very real substance—that any speed limit which you insert in a clause will be considered by the motorist as a minimum instead of a maximum, and will be regarded as a chartered right. At present the only thing which the motor-car driver knows is that he is not allowed to go beyond twelve miles an hour. We want to get away from that, and to give greater freedom in places where greater freedom is legitimate, and to enforce the necessity for care wherever the circumstances require it. From the point of view of the public, a limit of speed has the same tendency to blind their eyes, and also those of the police, to the fact that the offence of reckless driving exists alongside with the speed. I want to make reckless driving the offence. At present I think there is too much tendency on the part of the police to consider that their only duty is to stop motor-cars going beyond the legal limit, although the circumstances are such as to render the legal limit much less than is safe. That is undoubtedly irritating to the motorist himself, and not fair to the police. There is an immense volume of police testimony in this direction. I will only give one quotation. A short time ago a letter appeared from Mr. Anson, the Chief Constable of Staffordshire, in *The Times*, in which he said—

> "In common with most other police officers I am not enamoured of a speed limit in miles per hour. It is most difficult to estimate the absolute pace of any vehicle, and endless confusion will be caused if every urban district is to have a speed limit of its own."

I believe it to be absolutely impossible for a man looking at a car to say whether it is going eighteen, twenty, or twenty-two miles an hour. It is much easier to prove whether the thing is reckless, dangerous, or improper in the circumstances in which it is done. If you have this artificial restriction it will tend to continue, if not to increase, the hard swearing which takes place in police-courts, and to concentrate the energy of the police on points where the driving of a motor-car at a high speed is perfectly safe, and to take away their attention from points where it is dangerous, and where their assistance is really required. I believe that the effect of putting a limit of speed into an Act of Parliament would be actually to decrease what must ultimately be the really effective machinery for stopping reckless driving, namely, that which ensures a penalty following upon reckless driving in all circumstances. We are, in this Bill, making for the first time an effective system of identification and registration, and you will, if the Bill passes, be able to catch the man who breaks the law in a way in which you have never been able to catch him before. The Bill puts an immense power into the hands of those who want to check what is wrong, and if you run the risk—I do not say you will —of losing the Bill for the sake of an arbitrary speed limit, you will be doing great harm to the interests of this industry. The general lines on which the Bill is cast are wiser, safer, and more in the interests of the general public, than the proposal in the Amendment.

Lord Balfour of Burleigh.

THE EARL OF FEVERSHAM expressed his disappointment with the speech which had just been made by the noble Lord in charge of the Bill. He had always understood the protection of life to be one of the functions of good government. The noble Lord had made no reference whatever to the terrible accidents which were happening daily. They read in the newspapers how His Majesty's subjects were being daily killed and maimed by reckless motor driving, and yet the noble Lord had said nothing about that. Not very long ago, at a meeting of a district council in Yorkshire, a resolution was passed against motor-cars being allowed on the roads at all. They said they were dangerous machines, and that it would be far better not to allow them to use the public roads. He contended that it was undoubtedly reckless driving to exceed twenty miles an hour. Therefore, in the interests of the public, he felt that a speed limit should be imposed. His noble friend Lord Balfour seemed to have taken the motorists under his wing, and to have ignored altogether the interests of the public. If effective steps were not taken to prevent reckless driving, the feeling of the country would eventually demand more stringent measures than those with which it would now be satisfied.

LORD STANMORE pointed out the danger which arose in regard to crossways, and contrasted the minute and stringent precautions which were taken with regard to a level crossing on a railway with the entire absence of any protection to the public on a level crossing on the roads. In the vicinity of his own house there was a main road which was crossed by another road, the corners of which were completely masked, so that no one driving on either of the roads could see a driver on the other road until he was actually at the crossing point, at which it would be absolutely impossible for a motor-car to draw up or stop. He felt that a case had been made out for some protection of the public by the imposition of a speed limit. He was in favour of the Amendment, and of allowing the County Councils to relax the speed limit in particular cases.

*THE MARQUESS OF GRANBY regretted that he could not go into the Lobby with his noble friend who had moved this Amendment. He thought that a measure such as this, must be largely governed by the principle of conciliation between the parties concerned—in this instance the public on the one hand, and the motor-car industry on the other. He objected to the Amendment as likely to endanger the passing of the measure, and as affording less safety to the public than the Bill as it stood. He was of opinion that the words "at a speed which is dangerous to the public" covered all the ground. No one felt more hostility than he did towards the class of motorists who caused accidents, and possibly loss of life, and then drove on without taking the slightest trouble to render assistance. Those people, who were now known by the police as "road hogs," would be dealt with under the existing provisions of the Bill, and he hoped his noble friend would not press the Amendment.

EARL SPENCER opposed the Amendment. He thought the Secretary for Scotland had in a most able and conclusive way proved the case which he desired to put before their Lordships. He believed that the proposal of His Majesty's Government was more likely to protect the public against reckless driving. There was nothing so wrong as to put on the Statute-book an unworkable clause, and he thought the Amendment would be unworkable. People would not be bound by what they considered an unreasonable limit. Take the case of a motor-car travelling along a straight piece of road without a single person in sight, which might extend for a mile or a mile and a half. It was perfectly safe for the car to travel at this point at more than twenty miles an hour, and he believed there would not be any motorist who would not be tempted, when he saw a clear space before him of this character, to go at a greater speed than that laid down by the law. For the reason that he believed it dangerous to pass an unworkable law he could not vote for the Amendment.

THE EARL OF ROSEBERY said he did not rise to prolong the discussion, or even to speak to the point which had been so ably urged on both sides, but to make a practical suggestion to the Secretary for Scotland. He shared the views expressed by Lord Stanmore as to the great danger of crossways, and he suggested that the word recklessly implied simply a dare-devil rate of speed, and that if the words "or carelessly" were added they would cover the case of cross roads and be of assistance in controlling bad driving. Perhaps the noble Lord would take that point into consideration before the Report Stage.

LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH: I will certainly take it into consideration, but the noble Earl would not expect me to accept it off-hand.

THE EARL OF ROSEBERY: No, I only want the point taken into consideration.

On Question, their Lordships divided:—Contents, 14; Non-Contents, 111.

CONTENTS.

Camperdown, E. [*Teller.*]
Feversham, E.
Kimberley, E.

Cross, V.

Colchester, L.
Heneage, L.
Herries, L. [*Teller.*]
James, L.
Kelvin, L.

Knollys, L.
Muncaster, L.
Sherborne, L.
Stanmore, L.
Willoughby de Broke, L.

NOT-CONTENTS.

Halsbury, E. (*L. Chancellor.*)
Devonshire, D. (*L. President.*)

Grafton, D.
Portland, D.
Wellington, D.

Abercorn, M. (*D. Abercorn.*)
Ailesbury, M.

Bath, M.
Lansdowne, M.
Ripon, M.

Pembroke and Montgomery, E. (*L. Steward.*)
Clarendon, E. (*L. Chamberlain.*)
Abingdon, E.

Ancaster, E.
Beauchamp, E.
Cairns, E.
Carnwath, E.
Chesterfield, E.
Craven, E.
Crewe, E.
Dartmouth, E.
Dartrey, E.

Denbigh, E.
Derby, E.
Doncaster, E. (*D. Buccleuch and Queensberry.*)
Grey, E.
Hardwicke, E
Harewood, E.
Howe, E.
Ilchester, E.
Jersey, E.
Kilmorey, E.
Leven and Melville, E.
Lytton, E.
Malmesbury, E.
Mar and Kellie, E.
Mayo, E.
Onslow, E.
Powis, E.
Romney, E.
Rosslyn, E.
Selborne, E.
Spencer, E.
Waldegrave, E. [*Teller.*]
Westmeath, E.
Yarborough, E.

Churchill, V. [*Teller.*]
Goschen, V.
Hampden, V.
Hutchinson, V. (*E. Donoughmore.*)
Portman, V.
Ridley, V.

Abinger, L.
Balfour, L.
Barnard, L.
Belhaven and Stenton, L.
Belper, L.
Boyle, L. (*E. Cork and Orrery.*)
Braye, L.
Brougham and Vaux, L.
Burghclere, L.
Burton, L.
Calthorpe, L.
Carysfort, L. (*E. Carysfort.*)
Clanwilliam, L. (*E. Clanwilliam.*)
Clonbrock, L.
Congleton, L.
De Mauley, L.
Dunboyne, L.
Ellenborough, L.
Foley, L
Forester, L.
Glenesk, L.
Grenfell, L.
Harris, L.
Hatherton, L.
Hawkesbury, L.
Kenyon, L.
Kilmarnock, L. (*E. Erroll.*)
Kinnaird, L.
Kintore, L. (*E. Kintore.*)
Lamington, L.
Lawrence, L.
Lindley, L.
Ludlow, L.
Lyveden, S.
Manners of Haddon, L. (*M. Granby.*)
Meldrum, L. (*M. Huntly.*)
Montagu of Beaulieu, L.
Mostyn, L.
Oranmore and Browne, L
Reay, L.
Ribblesdale, L.
Robertson, L.
Rosebery, L. (*E. Rosebery.*)
Rowton, L.
St. Oswald, L.
Saville, L.
Shand, L.
Shute, L. (*V. Barrington.*)
Sudley, L. (*E. Arran.*)
Thring, L.
Tredegar, L.
Tweedmouth, L.
Ventry, L.
Welby, L.
Wemyss, L. (*E. Wemyss.*)
Wenlock, L.
Windsor, L.
Wolverton, L.
Wrottesley, L.

LORD HENEAGE who had given notice to move to delete from the first sub-section of Clause 1 the words—

> "Including the nature, condition, and use of the highway, and to the amount of traffic which actually is at the time, or which might be expected to be, on the highway,"

said that looking at the lateness of the hour and the fact that there were several important Amendments to come on later in which he was interested, he would postpone this Amendment until a later stage.

THE MARQUESS OF HUNTLY asked if the noble Lord in charge of the Bill would state the reason for inserting the words which Lord Heneage had intended to move to omit.

LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH: I do not understand the noble Marquess to allege any positive disadvantage. If he thinks there is any disadvantage in these words remaining in the clause, I shall be glad to hear what they are. I have never heard them objected to before this moment, and I am not prepared to give any very definite answer.

THE MARQUESS OF HUNTLY said that as he understood Lord Heneage would move his Amendment at a later stage, he would deal with the point then.

THE EARL OF ROSSLYN moved to omit the words "or which might be expected to be." These words were, he held, extremely vague, and would throw the onus on to the driver of a motor of speculating as to what might be expected to be on the highway. He thought that the clause without these words would be quite sufficient and would avoid the difficulties and undoubted difference of opinion which would arise if the clause was passed in its present form.

Amendment moved—

> "In page 1, line 9, to leave out the words 'or which might be expected to be.'"—(*The Earl of Rosslyn.*)

LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH: The words express in clear language what the law has been declared to be by the Judges who tried two recent cases, and they are purposely included in this clause to make it clear to motorists who may not read the Law Reports what the law is that they are expected to obey. The two cases I refer to are Smith *v.* Boon and Mayhew *v.* Sutton. They were both cases under the general Highways Acts, and it is for the advantage of every one concerned that the law should be clearly stated.

THE EARL OF ROSSLYN said that after the noble Lord's explanation he would withdraw his Amendment.

Amendment, by leave of the Committee, withdrawn.

THE EARL OF CAMPERDOWN moved an Amendment making it an offence for the driver of a motor-car to keep the engine in motion when the car was stationary, after he had been requested to stop the engine. He said their Lordships would have noticed that very often when a car was drawn up by the side of the pavement, the engine was left in motion, and the car continued to pant and make a great noise which was very disturbing to horses. There had been cases in which the motorists had been requested to stop the engine but had declined to do so. He thought they ought to be compelled to stop after a reasonable time when so requested. He proposed to move the Amendment in a slightly different form from that in which it appeared on the Paper, because it had been represented to him by some motorists that a car might be brought to a stop by a block in the traffic, and that would not be a case in which the driver should be expected to stop the engine. He did not think that such a stoppage would be held by any Court to be stationary, but he had no objection to inserting words to make it clear.

Amendment moved—

"In page 1, line 10, after the word 'highway,' to insert the words 'or when the car is stationary, owing to causes other than a block in the traffic, continues to keep the engine in motion after he has been requested to stop it.' "—(*The Earl of Camperdown.*)

LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH: I agree with the noble Earl that this has proved to be a very great grievance, but I think the matter is better dealt with by regulation than by statute; and if the noble Earl will withdraw his Amendment, I will give him a pledge that the point will be dealt with by the Local Government Board when issuing their general regulations.

Amendment, by leave of the Committee, withdrawn.

THE EARL OF CAMPERDOWN moved the insertion of a new sub-section. He said there had been many cases of drivers of motor-cars resisting and obstructing police constables in the execution of their duty. The words in his Amendment were at the present moment part of the regulations issued by the Local Government Board, but by inserting them in this Act the offence would be punishable by more severe penalties.

Amendment moved—

"After Sub-section (1) to insert the following new sub-section—'If a driver of a motor-car or any other person resists or obstructs a police constable in the execution of his duty under this section, or if he does not stop the motor-car and keep it stationary as long as may be reasonably necessary when requested by a police constable or any person having charge of a horse, or of sheep or of cattle, or on such constable or person holding up his hand as a signal for that purpose, he shall be guilty of an offence under this Act.' " — (*The Earl of Camperdown.*)

LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH: I hope the noble Earl will not press his Amendment. The first part of it, which deals with the obstruction of police constables in the execution of their duty, is already fully covered in the Prevention of Crimes Act, and therefore there is no sort of reason for putting it in here. The rest of the Amendment is merely a matter for regulation. The regulations now prescribe that the person in charge of a horse is the person to hold up his hand i he wants to stop a car, and cases have occurred where, owing to the technicality of the man seated by the side of the driver holding up his hand, it has been held that a request to stop has not been legally made. I am perfectly prepared to have that amended, but it is a matter which would be better done, I venture to suggest, by the flexible method of regulations by the Local Government Board than by statute. I do not think there is so much to be said with regard to horses, sheep, or cattle, because I think the motorist, if he is a wise man, will do all he can to avoid running into sheep or cattle for his own safety. With regard to the matter of giving a signal, I hope the noble Earl will accept the pledge I have given.

The Earl of CAMPERDOWN said that if the Local Government Board proposed to deal with this matter in the new regulations under this Act, of course that would make any violation of the regulations an offence under this Act, which was his object. He therefore withdrew his Amendment.

Lord BALFOUR of BURLEIGH: The regulations will be clearly issued under this Act. The present regulations would have been amended before now if it had not been for the prospect of legislation.

Amendment, by leave of the Committee, withdrawn.

The Earl of ROSSLYN moved to insert the words "in uniform" after the word "constable" in Sub-section 2 of Clause 1, which provides that—

> "Any police constable may apprehend without warrant the driver of any car who commits an offence under this section within his view."

He said the insertion of the words "in uniform" would put an end to the constant annoyance experienced by motorists of being held up for the amusement of pedestrians. If the Amendment was accepted there would be less friction between motor-car drivers and the general public.

Amendment moved—

> "In page 1, line 12, after the word 'constable,' to insert the words 'in uniform.'"—(*Earl of Rosslyn.*)

Lord BALFOUR of BURLEIGH: Under the Highways Act a constable, whether in uniform or not, may arrest a wrongdoer, and it is obvious that if a motorist and a driver of a dogcart are on the high-road together they should both be under the same law in regard to the police. Therefore I cannot accept the Amendment.

Amendment, by leave of the Committee, withdrawn.

The Earl of CAMPERDOWN thought a police constable ought to be able to apprehend for an offence even if it were not committed within his view. He therefore moved the Amendment standing in his name.

Amendment moved—

> "In page 1, lines 13 and 14, to leave out the words 'within his view,' and to insert the words 'if such car have no mark of registraion, and if such driver be unknown to him and refuses to give his name and address.'"—(*The Earl of Camperdown.*)

Lord BALFOUR of BURLEIGH: The argument which underlies this is a technical one, but I think I can put it shortly to the Committee. If you omit the words "within his view" from this clause, it will make an alteration in the general law. The section which gives power to the constable to arrest an offender who commits an offence within his view is right for this reason: that if a driver refuses to give the constable his name and address, he is clearly guilty of an offence under this section, and he is committing an offence within the view of the constable. If he does give his name and address, the power to apprehend is not material, because he can be summoned for driving a car which is not registered. If the noble Earl really wants to strengthen the Bill in this matter, the best way to do it would be to insert in the next clause—"And any police constable may apprehend without warrant any such person who commits an offence within his view." But I could not accept an Amendment to allow a constable to arrest an offender without seeing the offence, for the offence is, after all, only a misdemeanour. I believe there is no precedent for such a power except in the case of a felony. I think it will be seen that the Amendment is not necessary for the purpose in hand.

Amendment, by leave of the Committee, withdrawn.

The Earl of CAMPERDOWN moved to omit the words "any car who commits" from Sub-section 3 of Clause 1 — which provides that if the driver of any car who commits an offence under this section refuses to give his name and address, or gives a false name and address, he shall be guilty of an offence under this Act — and to insert, in lieu thereof, the words "a motor-car charged with." He presumed that the driver could not be said to have committed an offence until it had been proved.

Amendment moved—

"In page 1, line 15, to leave out the words 'any car who commits,' and to insert the words 'a motor-car charged with.'"—(*The Earl of Camperdown.*)

Lord BALFOUR of BURLEIGH: This section runs practically in the same language as the Highways Act of 1835, and both on the ground of precedent, and on the ground of actual verbal accuracy, I think the Amendment is not required.

The Earl of CAMPERDOWN asked the noble Lord if he would explain the wording of the clause, which ran—

"If the driver of any car who commits an offence under this section refuses to give his name and address, or gives a false name and address, he shall be guilty of an offence under this Act,'" etc.

What was the object of saying that if the driver of a car committed an offence he should be guilty of an offence?

Lord BALFOUR of BURLEIGH: That is the technical way of saying that he commits an offence under the Act which subjects him to the penalty clause.

Amendment, by leave of the Committee, withdrawn.

Drafting Amendment agreed to.

Clause 1, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 2.

The Earl of DARTMOUTH moved to insert at the end of the first subsection—

"And no car shall be registered for ordinary road work capable of going more than thirty miles an hour on the flat."

He was in agreement with the Government that a speed limit was not desirable, because there was no limit of speed in a motor-car which was actually safe. He had driven in motor-cars at over forty miles an hour in France with perfect comfort and perfect safety, and he had driven in motor-cars in England at six miles an hour, where the driver was a terror to himself and everybody else. The arguments he had heard brought against this proposal were these. In the first place, he was told that if they had a limit power of thirty miles an hour on the level, the car would not go up hill as fast as that; on the other hand, he was told that it would go down hill a great deal faster. He did not see why motorists should want to go up hill at the same speed as on the flat. Other vehicles had to go up hill at a modified speed, and if they went down hill faster than the public safety permitted they were dealt with under other provisions. The one argument that did seem to him to have weight was that a motor-car of this power would be unable to draw any weight up any very considerable gradient. But if a motor-car that was capable of going thirty miles on the level could not draw a reasonable weight up a reasonable hill, then the sooner those who made motor-cars turned their attention to making cars that would do this, instead of aiming at a great speed on the flat, the better. His object was to keep racing cars off the roads altogether. Noble Lords had expressed great jubilation that in the Gordon-Bennett race nobody was actually killed. He hoped that was the last race on public roads in this country.

Amendment moved—

"In page 1, line 25, after the word 'them' to insert the words 'and no car shall be registered for ordinary road work capable of going more than thirty miles an hour on the flat.'"—(*The Earl of Dartmouth.*)

Lord TWEEDMOUTH, who had an Amendment on the Paper with the same object, said that both he and the noble Earl desired by their Amendments to provide that motor-cars fitted with monstrous engines should not be allowed to run along the high roads at all. Surely it was not too much to expect that they could arrive at some standard beyond which it was not desirable that motor-cars should be registered for traffic on the ordinary roads. He believed that the only safe way to do that was by regulating the power of the engines with which motor-cars were fitted to the weight of the cars. No doubt it would be said that it was a very hard thing indeed that a man who had a very powerful motor-car should not be allowed to use it on the roads, and that he need not go at the extreme speed that his car would allow him to go. But human nature being what it was, he thought that any noble Lord or any gentleman who possessed a motor-car able to go at a very high rate of speed would be tempted to take advantage, on some occasions at any rate, of that power, and run the car at full speed. It was said that these very high speeds might be indulged in without any very great danger, but he knew that many skilful motorists admitted that when they got to fifty, sixty, or seventy miles an hour they were necessarily incurring considerable danger whether the roads were empty or not. He would put another point. Suppose a motorist was going at fifty miles an hour, and wanted to pass a vehicle, what happened? He would slow down to about thirty miles an hour, which was far too high a speed at which to pass any vehicle; whereas, if he had been going at from thirty to thirty-five miles an hour, he would slow down to about fifteen miles an hour, which was a speed at which he might properly pass other vehicles on the road. The Amendment which he had drafted for dealing with this question was as follows—

> "In Clause 2, page 1, line 25, after 'them' to insert 'provided that no motor-car shall be accepted for registration fitted with engines giving more than thirty horse-power, and that every motor-car if fitted with engines of from twenty to thirty horse-power, shall weigh at least twenty-four hundredweight ready for the road; if fitted with engines of from twelve to twenty horse-power, shall weigh at least fifteen hundredweight ready for the road; and if fitted with engines of from six to twelve horse-power, shall weigh at least nine hundredweight ready for the road.'"

He believed that if his Amendment was accepted motor-cars would be capable of registering a much higher speed than that suggested by Lord Dartmouth. His Amendment would allow a speed of at least forty miles an hour to be attained, so that he did not think the Amendment was at all illiberal to the motorist who was fond of going at a high speed. If the Government were disposed to accept words similar to his own in preference to those of his noble friend, he was quite ready to accept them; but he ventured to press on the noble Lord in charge of the Bill the desirability of accepting the principle that some standard of speed should be fixed beyond which motor-cars should not be registered. The various arguments urged earlier in the debate against any speed limit did not apply with regard either to the Amendment of his noble friend or his own. They got rid of all questions of the police, of stop-watches, and the spying system. What they said was that manufacturers should not make cars giving more than a certain power if those cars were to be registered. He was quite prepared to accept the decision of the House on his noble friend's Amendment as covering his Amendment.

*Lord KELVIN said that the Amendment proposed by Lord Dartmouth was, in his opinion, unduly restrictive, because cars so limited would be unfit for work, say, in the Highlands of Scotland, where it was necessary to go uphill. It was inadvisable to restrict cars from possessing the power of going at very high speeds on the flat, as without this power they would be of little use in hilly districts. There should not be a limitation as to the power of motor-cars which would prevent an owner taking advantage of any relaxation as to speed which might be allowed under Clause 5 by the local authorities and the Local Government Board in certain parts of the country. He believed that local authorities would give permission in certain places where it was safe for motor-cars to be driven at rates varying from thirty to forty miles an hour, and if the Amendment was adopted motors would not be capable of going even at a speed permitted by the law.

Lord RIBBLESDALE asked what was to happen to the existing larger cars. Would the owners have to sell at a loss, or was there a means open to them by which they could alter the machinery in some way so as to enable them to be registered?

Lord TWEEDMOUTH said that it would be quite easy to have the engines altered so as to bring those cars within the requirements of the law.

LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH: I have the greatest possible sympathy with the idea, and I agree with the noble Lord that if we could carry out this principle, it would be a fair, judicious, and sensible way of regulating the speed of motor-cars. But according to the advice I get from more than one source, and not only from my professional advisers, both Amendments are impossible and Utopian. They could not be carried out in practice. The object of both noble Lords is to keep what are practically racing cars off the road. I am informed that racing-cars are really of no practical use for general road work. No doubt they have had a certain boom, but that boom, if not already passed, is at any rate passing away, and I believe that racing cars on an ordinary road will really die a natural death. In answer to Lord Ribblesdale, I am informed that about 55 per cent. of the cars now in use would be unable under these Amendments to obtain a certificate, and would have to be wholly redesigned; refitting would not do. I do not, however, base my opposition on that ground, but on the ground that, as I am advised, this is an impracticable proposal. I am positively assured that cars which have power to go at thirty miles an hour on the flat would really be unable to go even up to ordinary speed in a hilly country. The difference of power required to climb an ordinary hill and to go on the flat is so great that there is no regular relation between them. Moreover, any man who desired to evade the law could alter the gearing of the car in a very few moments. Therefore the Amendments would afford no protection. Though I am in sympathy with the idea contained in the Amendment, I am assured by those who have special knowledge that it is impossible to put it into practice.

LORD TWEEDMOUTH said that recently he had been driven in a 40 h. p. Mercedes car from Ascot to Windsor and did the journey of six and a half miles in just over seven minutes. That was a very comfortable car, capable of carrying six or seven persons, but he did not think it was the type of car that should be allowed on the road.

THE EARL OF DARTMOUTH said that if 55 per. cent of the cars now in use would be unable under his Amendment to obtain a certificate, the owners would have to get new ones, which would be an excellent thing for the motor industry.

Amendment, by leave of the Committee, withdrawn.

LORD TWEEDMOUTH intimated that he would not move his Amendment.

THE EARL OF CAMPERDOWN moved to amend Sub-section 2 of clause 2, which provides that—

> "A mark indicating the registered number of the car and the council with which the car is registered shall be fixed on the car, or on a vehicle drawn by the car, or on both," etc.

He moved to leave out the words "or on a," and to insert, in their place, "and on any," and to omit "or on both." The effect of his Amendment would be to require that, if a car had a trailer, the mark indicating the registered number of the car and the council with which the car was registered should be placed both on the car and on the trailer. As the clause now stood, it was unnecessary for that to be done.

Amendment moved—

> "In page 1, line 28, to leave out the words 'or on a' and to insert the words 'and on any,' and to leave out the words 'or on both.'"—(*The Earl of Camperdown.*)

LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH: I think the power to direct that the mark shall be fixed on one or other or both, is better than the provision that it shall be on both, and for this reason, that a trailer may not always be used with the same engine. I think it would be better to leave the matter to be dealt with in the regulations of the Local Government Board.

Amendment, by leave of the Committee, withdrawn.

LORD HERRIES moved an Amendment in Sub-section 3 to substitute £1 for 5s. as the amount to be charged by the Council of a County or county borough on the registration of a car. The Bill would impose a great amount of expense on the local authorities, who would have to erect signposts and provide additional constables to see that people did not drive recklessly on the roads. He thought that the fee to be paid should certainly be more than 5s.

Amendment moved—

"In page 2, line 3, to leave out the words 'five shillings' and insert the words 'one pound.'"—(*Lord Herries.*)

LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH: It was not intended that these fees should be a source of revenue, and I would prefer to leave this matter to be decided in the other House of Parliament, where I understand questions of taxation in connection with the Bill may arise.

LORD HARRIS had hoped that the Government would have given a sympathetic support to the noble Lord's proposal. At the present time traction engines had to pay as much as £10 for a licence. Of course they broke up the roads very seriously, and he did not think £10 any too much to make them pay; but motor-cars also took a good deal of wear out of the roads, judging by the dust which they threw up, and he hoped that before the Bill became law a much heavier charge than 5s. would be imposed on the registration of a car.

THE EARL OF MAYO could not see how a motor-car any more than a cycle could take any wear out of roads.

THE MARQUESS OF GRANBY said that if the noble Earl who had just sat down was acquainted with the amount of money that had had to be spent by County Councils in repairing the damage done to roads by motor-cars he would be convinced to the contrary.

Amendment, by leave of the Committee, withdrawn.

THE EARL OF ROSSLYN said that Sub-section 4 of Clause 2 as at present drafted, provided that if a car is used on a public highway without being registered, or if the mark to be affixed in accordance with the Act is not so fixed, or if, being so fixed, it is in any way obscured, or rendered, or allowed to become not easily distinguishable, the person driving the car shall be guilty of an offence under the Act. He moved to insert, after "distinguishable," the words "except from dust or mud."

Amendment moved—

"In page 2, line 8, after the word 'distinguishable' to insert the words 'except from dust or mud.'"—(*The Earl of Rosslyn.*)

LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH: I could not possibly accept this Amendment, because dust and mud are the very things I want to provide against. The whole kernel of this clause is to lay the responsibility for a clear number and a clear light upon the owner of the car. I have heard that there are some men who oil or grease their lights in order that dust and mud may stick to them. I have never seen it done, but I think such a thing is possible.

LORD MONTAGU OF BEAULIEU asked the noble Lord in charge of the Bill whether he would put in words to exempt the driver where the number was not obscured wilfully.

LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH: No; we want distinctly to lay the obligation on the driver of the car to keep his light and number clear. The whole point is to lay the onus on the driver of the car.

Amendment, by leave of the Committee, withdrawn.

Clause 2, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 3.

LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH: This clause provides that a person shall not drive a motor-car for hire or reward unless he is licensed for the purpose. I move to omit the words "for hire or reward," the Amendment having the effect of requiring all drivers of motor-cars to have a licence.

Amendment moved—

"In page 2, lines 10 and 11, to leave out the words 'for hire or reward.'"—(*Lord Balfour of Burleigh.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

*LORD ELLENBOROUGH said the object of the Amendment standing in his name was to provide that no licence should be granted to any person under the age of sixteen. He felt that the majority of their Lordships would agree with him that there should be some limit of age. Under the Bill any child, on payment of the fee, could take out a licence to drive a motor-car. He had fixed sixteen as the age, because there were a large number of steady and intelligent lads earning a living in motor workshops, and he would be sorry to do anything which would deprive them of the means of earning their living.

Amendment moved—

> "In page 2, line 13, after the word 'reward' to insert the words 'no such licence shall be granted to any person under the age of sixteen.' "—(*Lord Ellenborough.*)

LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH: This Amendment is a very reasonable one in itself, but it raises a principle of some importance on which I should like to ask the opinion of noble Lords who have studied the question. In the Bill the proposal is that anybody shall have a licence. If you put any limitations upon that, it restricts the right of a person to get a licence, and I think you might almost have to go further and provide a series of conditions under which County Councils should give licences. I have no objection to this Amendment and am prepared to accept it, but I may have to bring up clauses for carrying this and similar Amendments into effect at a subsequent stage.

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

THE EARL OF CAMPERDOWN moved an Amendment providing that a licence shall be produced when demanded by a police constable. Otherwise, he did not see the value of the licence.

Amendment moved—

> "In page 2, line 13, after the word 'reward' to insert the words 'such licence must be produced when demanded by a police constable.' "—(*The Earl of Camperdown.*)

LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH: I have no objection to this Amendment.

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

LORD HENEAGE asked the noble Lord in charge of the Bill if he had any objection to altering the word "shall" into "may" in Sub-section 2, which ran—

> "The Council of a County or county borough shall grant a licence to drive a motor-car for hire or reward to any person applying for it on payment of a fee of one shilling, unless the applicant is disqualified under the provisions of this section."

He thought some discretion should be given to the County Council in order that drunkards and objectionable people might not get licences if they were pointed out by the police. His Amendment would not injure the clause in any way, but would give the County Council a very desirable discretion.

Amendment moved—

> "In page 2, line 16, to leave out the word 'shall' and to insert the word 'may.' "—(*Lord Heneage.*)

THE EARL OF ROSSLYN supported the Amendment and expressed the hope that the noble Lord in charge of the Bill would see his way to accept it.

LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH: I think that this Amendment would cut deeper into the framework of the Bill than the noble Lord seems to think. If it were carried, a County Council might say that they would not grant a licence. It seems to me that the granting of licences by County Councils requires some consideration by the House. I did not put an Amendment on the Paper because I heard that this question was to be raised. But I had it in view to consider whether there should be a general power for a man to get a licence in any part of the country, whether he was domiciled or not in the county in which he applied. I was rather inclined to make it compulsory on a County Council to grant a licence, except for certain specified reasons, but not to make it obligatory on the County Council to grant a licence to a person not domiciled in their district or known to them. I think that would be a better way of regulating the matter. I hope noble Lords who have taken an interest in the Bill will give some general indication of what they think is the wisest course to adopt, and if the decision is in the direction of not leaving the Bill exactly as it stands, but of limiting the right of the applicant for a licence to get it from only one County Council, I would be prepared at a subsequent stage to put down a code of clauses which would regulate the matter in that direction rather than in the way suggested.

THE MARQUESS OF RIPON: I suppose a licence from one County Council would hold good all over the country?

LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH: Clearly. But what I had in view was that, if a man were allowed to apply to more than one County Council for a licence, he might when one licence was endorsed with a conviction, and he was again convicted, produce another licence which he had up his sleeve and which was unendorsed. I think, therefore, the principle adopted should be one man one licence, and consequently one man one place in which to get a licence. But I think it would be impossible to entrust complete discretion to the County Council, which might put undue difficulties in the way of a person domiciled in its district getting a licence.

LORD HENEAGE withdrew his Amendment, but expressed the hope that the noble Lord would deal with the question at a subsequent stage.

LORD MONTAGU OF BEAULIEU asked whether the licence should not be obtainable only in the county or district in which the car was registered.

LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH: I have no objection to taking that into consideration, but at present it is compulsory on every County Council to give a licence to anybody who applies for it, without making any inquiry whether he has obtained a licence before from any other County Council.

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

Consequential Amendment agreed to.

LORD TWEEDMOUTH moved an Amendment making it a condition of the granting of a licence that the applicant should produce a certificate, signed by the chief of the police of the county or county borough, of his competence to drive a motor-car. This point was debated on the Second Reading, and it certainly did seem to him that the whole weight of argument was in favour of requiring some such proof of competence. The noble Lord in charge of the Bill had asked who was to examine. He (Lord Tweedmouth) supplied the answer in his Amendment by putting in the police. The noble Lord might ask what regulations were to be made for the examination; but two or three times that night the noble Lord had stated that the Local Government Board were prepared to frame regulations for this and that purpose. If it was necessary that there should be uniformity between one district and another, then surely regulations could be framed and laid down on which the police might act. Then it was said that a man might get a licence more easily from one authority than from another. After all, that was an objection which was to be found with regard to examinations of every kind. According to the examiner, and according to the place, there would be a certain difference of qualification required for exactly the same purpose; but by this Amendment they would, at any rate, get a certain proof of some competence, and he held that it was far better that the driver should be required to show some competence than that he should be allowed to have a licence whether he could drive or not. Then it was said that they could not really test the competence of a driver unless they put him in some difficult place, and that that could not be secured in the case of an examination. He admitted that the most competent driver, if put in a tight place, might utterly fail to meet it if he had not sufficient nerve. The question of power to deal with the exigencies of a tight place would always depend upon the courage of the individual, and would not be met by any question of skill; but, for his own part, if he had to be in a tight place on a motor-car, he would sooner be in a tight place with a competent driver than with one who knew very little about his business.

Amendment moved—

"In page 2, line 18, after the word 'it' to insert the words 'and who produces a certificate signed by the chief of the police of such county or county borough of his competence to drive a motor-car.' "—*Lord Tweedmouth.*

The Earl of ROSSLYN said the noble Lord in charge of the Bill had asked him, on the Second Reading, to frame an Amendment on this subject. He had done so by providing that any County or Borough Council might withhold or subsequently cancel such licence if, in their opinion, the applicant for, or owner of, such licence should be deemed to have no practical knowledge of the method of driving a car. The only difference between his Amendment and that of his noble friend Lord Tweedmouth was that, in the latter, the police were substituted for the County or Borough Council, and to that he was agreeable. He suggested that the representative of the chief constable or the County or Borough Council should ask the applicant to drive his car round a portion of their town or village which they had had measured, and see that he was not only able to drive at regulation speed, but with care and caution, before granting him a licence.

Lord BALFOUR of BURLEIGH: As your Lordships will remember, this matter was discussed at some length on the Second Reading, and I then indicated my views, with which the noble Lord, quite fairly, professed himself not satisfied, and he has to-day, as I fully expected, returned to the charge. I may say he has not converted me, and I hope he has not converted the majority of the House, because it seems to me, as I said then, that while there is a good deal to be said for it at first sight, it is really impossible satisfactorily to carry out in practice, and, even if carried out, in an emergency would be a delusion and a snare. In the first place, I say without fear of contradiction that in this country there is no Government Department which could do it for the whole of the country. I do not understand that to be challenged, and therefore it must go into the hands of the County Councils or of the police. As I stated on a former occasion, neither of these bodies have any technical knowledge or technical advisers, and I ventured to say—and I have since been confirmed in the statement—that the accidents that have happened have not been from want of competency on the part of the driver. But the most serious objection I have is that I believe any examination which would be more than a mere farce, would be impossible to carry out without a great expenditure of money, time, and trouble, utterly disproportionate to its real value. If it is to be an efficient examination it must be continuous for a certain amount of time, and every variety of contingency must be provided for. I believe that anything short of a very thorough examination would be a delusion, and would give a false sense of security. What I believe would really happen would be that whoever examined the applicant would make him drive backwards, then forwards, and then stop, and then go through some very slight exercises. As I said before, competency to drive one particular kind of car does not necessarily mean competency to drive another car, and I think it will hardly be suggested that the licence is only to be one to drive one particular kind of car. I suggest that this is really not a useful and practicable proposal, but I do see that there are some deficiencies in the regulations under which licences are granted, and I will, at any rate for discussion, put down a code of clauses at a subsequent stage, which will, I think, regulate the matter better.

On question, their Lordships divided:

Contents, 12; Not-Contents, 59.

CONTENTS.

Craven, E.
Crewe, E.
Kimberley, E.
Rosslyn, E.

Spencer, E.

Belhaven and Stenton, L.
Boyle, L. (*E. Cork and Orrery.*)
James, L.

Lamington, L. [*Teller.*]
Reay, L.
Sandhurst, L.
Tweedmouth, L. [*Teller.*]

NOT-CONTENTS.

Halsbury, E. (*L. Chancellor.*)
Devonshire, D. (*L. President.*)

Grafton, D.
Wellington, D.

Abercorn, M. (*D. Abercorn.*)
Ailesbury, M.

Bath, M.
Lansdowne, M.

Pembroke and Montgomery, E. (*L. Steward.*)
Clarendon, E. (*L. Chamberlain.*)
Abingdon, E.
Ancaster, E.
Camperdown, E.
Cawdor, E,
Dartrey, E.
Denbigh, E.
Derby, E.
Doncaster, E. (*D. Buccleuch and Queensberry.*)
Hardwicke, E.
Howe, E.
Ilchester, E.
Jersey, E.
Mayo, E.
Morley, E.
Morton, E.
Onslow, E.
Romney, E.
Waldegrave, E. [*Teller.*]

Churchill, V. [*Teller.*]
Hutchinson, V. (*E. Donoughmore.*)
Portman, V.

Abinger, L.
Balfour, L.
Barnard, L.
Belper, L.
Calthorpe, L.
Clonbrock, L.
Congleton, L.
De Mauley, L.
Dunboyne, L.
Forester, L.
Glenesk, L.
Harris, L.
Hatherton, L.
Hawkesbury, L.
Heneage, L.
Kelvin, L.
Kenyon, L.
Kinnaird, L.
Kintore, L. (*E. Kintore.*)
Lawrence, L.
Manners of Haddon, L. (*M. Granby.*)
Meldrum, L. (*M. Huntly.*)
Montagu of Beaulieu, L.
Ribblesdale, L.
Rowton, L.
Wemyss, L (*E. Wemyss.*)
Wenlock, L.
Wolverton, L.

LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH: I do not know whether it would be for the convenience of the House, but it has been suggested to me that possibly it would be convenient, to adjourn the further consideration of the Bill in Committee until Tuesday next. I am entirely in the hands of the House. I am ready to go on now or to adjourn, but I venture to think that the progress we have made to-night would justify an adjournment until Tuesday. Moreover, it would give the Local Government Board a little more time to put down the new clauses which I have promised, and would really facilitate the progress of the measure.

EARL SPENCER: If, as the noble Lord says, an adjournment will be more conducive to the efficiency of the Bill I shall certainly not oppose it.

House resumed; and to be again in Committee on Tuesday next.

VOLUNTEER RANGES.

THE EARL OF DARTMOUTH: My Lords, I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for War if he is now in a position to give the details of the manner in which the £170,000 allocated for Volunteer ranges in the years 1900–1901 has been distributed.

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR: (The Earl of HARDWICKE): The Return which I promised by 1st August is now in the hands of the printers, and I hope to present it to the House in the course of the next few days.

PISTOLS BILL.

Order of the day for the Third Reading read, and discharged.

PUBLIC OFFICES (DUBLIN) BILL.

[SECOND READING.]

Order of the day for the Second Reading read.

THE EARL OF DENBIGH: My Lords, this Bill has passed without opposition through the other House, and is to enable land to be acquired in Dublin for the purpose of a Royal College of Science and other offices and buildings for the public service. I beg to move that it be read a second time.

Moved, that the Bill be now read 2^{a}.—(*The Earl of Denbigh.*)

On Question, Bill read 2^{a}, and committed to a Committee of the Whole House on Tuesday next.

House adjourned at twenty minutes before Eight o'clock, to Monday next, a quarter before Eleven o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Friday, 17th July, 1903.

The House met at Twelve of the Clock.

UNOPPOSED PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

PROVISIONAL ORDER BILLS [LORDS] (STANDING ORDERS APPLICABLE THERETO COMPLIED WITH).

Mr. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bill, originating in the Lords, and referred on the First Reading thereof, the Standing Orders which are applicable thereto have been complied with—viz., Tramways Orders Confirmation (No. 1) Bill [Lords].

Ordered, That the Bill be read a second time upon Monday next.

Great Northern Railway Bill; Metropolitan District Railway (Various Powers) Bill; Midland and Belfast and Northern Counties Railways Bill. Lords Amendments considered, and agreed to.

Didcot, Newbury, and Southampton Railway Bill [Lords]. Read the third time, and passed, with Amendments.

Mersey Docks and Harbour Board Bill [Lords] (King's Consent, on behalf of the Duchy of Lancaster, signified). Read the third time, and passed, with Amendments.

Derby Gas Bill [Lords]; Dudley, Stourbridge, and District Tramways Bill [Lords]; Poole and District Electric Traction Bill [Lords]. As amended, considered: to be read the third time.

Pier and Harbour Provisional Orders (No 4) Bill. Lords' Amendments considered and agreed to.

Pier and Harbour Provisional Orders (No. 2) Bill; Pier and Harbour Provisional Orders (No. 3) Bill. Lords' Amendments considered, and agreed to.

Education Board Provisional Order Confirmation (London) Bill [Lords]. Read the second time, and committed.

Birmingham District Tramways Bill [Lords]. Reported, with Amendments; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

Cnard Corporation Gas and Electricity Bill [Lords]; Dewsbury, Batley, and Birstal Tramways Bill [Lords]; Mid-Yorkshire Tramways Bill [Lords]. Reported, with Amendments; Reports to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

Taff Railway Bill [Lords]. Reported, without Amendment; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

Maryport Harbour Bill [Lords]; Barry Railway Bill [Lords]; Reported, with Amendments; Reports to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.

That they had agreed to, Elementary Education Amendment Bill; Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 9) Bill; Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 5) Bill; without Amendment.

Wigan Corporation Tramways Bill; Middlesbrough Corporation Bill; with Amendments.

Amendment to, Pontypridd Urban District Council Bill [Lords]; Frinton-on-Sea Sea Defences Bill [Lords]; Cardiff Railway Bill [Lords]; Aston Manor Improvement Bill [Lords]; without Amendment.

That they have passed a Bill, intituled, "An Act to authorise the London County Council to provide receiving houses for the reception of persons mentally affected or alleged to be of unsound mind, and to authorise the detention of such persons in such houses, and for other purposes connected therewith." [Lunacy Acts Amendment (London) Bill [Lords].]

Also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act to confirm a Provisional Order under The Private Legislation Procedure (Scotland) Act, 1899, relating to Glasgow Corporation Police." [Glasgow Corporation (Police) Order Confirmation Bill [Lords].]

And, also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act to confirm a Provisional Order under The Private Legislation Procedure

(Scotland) Act, 1899, relating to Irvine and District Water Board." [Irvine and District Water Board Order Confirmation Bill [Lords.]

Glasgow Corporation (Police) Order Confirmation Bill [Lords]; read the first time: to be read a second time upon Monday, 27th July, and to be printed. [Bill 282.]

Irvine and District Water Board Confirmation Bill [Lords]; read a first time; to be read a second time upon Monday, 27th July, and to be printed. [Bill 283.]

Gas Orders Confirmation (No. 1) Bill [Lords]; Reported, without Amendment [Provisional Orders confirmed]; Report to lie upon the Table. Bill to be read a third time upon Monday next.

Gas Orders Confirmation (No. 2) Bill [Lords]; Beported, with Amendments [Provisional Orders confirmed]; Report to lie upon the Table. Bill, as amended, to be considered upon Monday next.

Water Orders Confirmation Bill [Lords]; Reported, without Amendment [Provisonal Orders confirmed]; Report to lie upon the Table. Bill to be read the third time upon Monday next.

Lochnell Estate Bill [Lords]; Reported, without Amendment; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. Bill to be read the third time.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

NATIONAL EDUCATION (IRELAND).

Copy presented, of Sixty-ninth Report of the Commissioners of National Education in Ireland, being for the year 1902 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

AFRICA (No. 8, 1903).

Copy presented, of Report on Slavery and Free Labour in the British East Africa Protectorate [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

COMMERCIAL RELATIONS (COMMERCIAL, No. 6, 1903).

Copy presented, of Findings of the Permanent Commission established under Article VII. of the Sugar Convention of 5th March, 1902, and Report of the British Delegate [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

TRADE REPORTS (ANNUAL SERIES).

Copies presented, of Diplomatic and Consular Reports, Annual Series, Nos. 3,031 to 3,033 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

TREATY SERIES (No. 11, 1903).

Copy presented, of the Accession of Denmark to the International Convention of 9th September, 1886, establishing an International Union for the Protection of Literary and Artistic Works, and also to the additional Act and Declaration signed in Paris, 4th May, 1896—1st July, 1903 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

TRAMWAYS ORDERS CONFIRMATION (No. 1) BILL [LORDS.]

Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 16th July; *Mr. Bonar Law*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [260.]

COLONIAL REPORTS (ANNUAL).

Copy presented, of Report No. 389 (Sierra Leone, Annual Report for 1902) [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

TRINIDAD.

Copy presented, of Papers relating to the recent disturbances at Port of Spain, Trinidad [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

TRINIDAD.

Copy presented, of Report of the Commission of Inquiry into the recent disturbances at Port of Spain, Trinidad [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

UNIVERSITY OF GLASGOW.

Copy presented, of Abstract of Accounts of the University of Glasgow for the year ending 30th September, 1902 [by Act] to lie upon the Table; and to be printed. [No. 261.]

Paper laid upon the Table by the Clerk of the House.

PUBLIC RECORDS (POST OFFICE).

Copy of Fourth Schedule containing a List and Particulars of Classes of Documents existing or accruing in the Office of His Majesty's Postmaster-General, which are not considered of sufficient public value to justify their preservation in the Public Record Office [by Act].

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

Concessions for the Collection of Rubber in Uganda.

MR. BAYLEY (Derbyshire, Chesterfield): To ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, if he will lay upon the Table of the House the terms and conditions of the concessions granted to the Italian Colonial Trading Company and the Victoria Nyanza Agency, respectively for the collection of rubber in the Uganda Protectorate.

(*Answered by Lord Cranborne.*) The text of the concessions has not yet been received. The general terms and conditions were given in the Return laid in Africa, No. 7, 1903. The main conditions of the agreement with the Italian Company are reported by His Majesty's Commissioner to be: that it is for five years; that the permit is held subject to any rights of the natives to forest produce; that the permit carries no rights other than the collection of rubber; that European supervision is to be employed, and only trained collectors allowed to collect rubber; that any labour employed within the area of the permit is to be paid for in rupees, and not in shells or food; that the Company plant 20,000 vines during the period of the permit in areas to be approved by the collector; that at the expiration of the permit the conditions for a fresh permit be considered between the Administration and the Company. The agreement with the Victoria Nyanza Agency is also for five years, the firm undertaking to plant 14,000 rubber vines during the period of the permit.

Increase in price of wheat during "Leiter Corner."

SIR HOWARD VINCENT (Sheffield Central): To ask the President of the Board of Trade if he can state what was the rise in the price of wheat in Great Britain at the time of the recent Leiter corner in wheat at Chicago.

(*Answered by Mr. Gerald Balfour.*) The mean of the monthly average *Gazette* prices of British wheat in England and Wales for January, February, and March 1898 was about 35s. 2d. per quarter. The average for the months immediately following were April, 36s.; May, 46s.; June, 43s. 7d.; July, 37s. 5d.; August, 33s. 1d.; the average falling to 26s. 5d. in September. The highest point touched was 48s. 1d. in the week ending 21st May.

Average prices and duty on Wheat in England, France and Germany.

COLONEL LONG (Worcestershire, Evesham): To ask the President of the Board of Trade, what was the equivalent in English money of the duty on, and the average price after duty was charged, of a quarter of wheat taking 500 lbs. to the quarter, at ports of importation in England, Germany, and France on the first day of each quarter between 1st April 1901 and 1st June 1903, inclusive.

(*Answered by Mr. Gerald Balfour.*) No information can be given as to the average prices of imported wheat in England, Germany, and France on particular days.

Electric High-Tension Current on Overhead Wires.

MR. MARKHAM (Nottinghamshire, Mansfield): To ask the President of the Board of Trade, whether, seeing that the Governments of America, France, Germany, Switzerland, Italy, and other countries have, during the last ten years, passed laws regulating the methods of distributing high-tension current by overhead wires, which has resulted in a widely employed use of electricity for industrial purposes, he will say whether, in view of the restrictions of the Board of Trade, there is a single case in Great Britain or Ireland where high-tension current overhead wires have been installed.

MR. MARKHAM: To ask the President of the Board of Trade, whether, in view of the continued refusals of the Board of Trade to grant facilities to manufacturers in this country to use high-tension bare wires, for the alleged reason that these wires might be dangerous to the public, he has taken any steps to ask the Foreign Office to obtain Reports from His Majesty's Consuls Abroad as to whether any accidents have been caused by this system of power transmission; and if he has not done so will he communicate with the Foreign Office on the subject with a view of obtaining these Reports.

(*Answered by Mr. Gerald Balfour.*) I will answer the hon. Member's Questions together and refer him to the Answer given to a similar Question which he put to me on the 24th of June last.† The Board of Trade have not refused to grant facilities to manufacturers for the use of high-tension bare wires. Until quite recently the Department has not been asked to sanction this method of supply. As was stated in reply to the hon. Member's previous Question, the Board will give their best consideration to applications for the use of high voltage, dealing with each case on its merits.

Foreign Imports into the Colonies—Merchandise Marks Acts.

MR. D. A. THOMAS (Merthyr Tydvil): To ask the President of the Board of Trade whether, in view of the fact stated in the introductory memorandum to Parliamentary Paper [C. 8449], that a considerable proportion of the apparent increase in foreign importations is attributed in most of the colonies to the effect of the Merchandise Marks Act, and the consequent injury to British reshipment trade, he proposes to amend or to repeal that measure.

(*Answered by Mr. Gerald Balfour.*) The Board of Trade do not propose to repeal the Act. The question of its amendment is one for consideration; but it is obvious that no Bill dealing with the subject could be introduced during the present session.

Fiscal Inquiry—Reprint of Parliamentary Paper No. 299 of session of 1825.

MR. D. A. THOMAS: To ask the President of the Board of Trade whether, in view of the forthcoming discussion into the relative merits of different fiscal systems, he will cause a reprint to be made of Parliamentary Paper No. 299, of session 1825, giving the rates of wages in various districts, the extent to which the practice of paying the wages of agricultural labour out of the poor rates prevailed at the time, and the conditions relating to marriage and number of children under which assistance was given.

(*Answered by Mr. Gerald Balfour.*) I do not think any useful purpose would be served by republishing this old Return.

Assistant Head Postmen—Case of C. W. Mason of Clapham.

MR. JAMES O'CONNOR (Wicklow, W.): To ask the Postmaster-General whether he will explain why postman C. W. Mason of Clapham, was not appointed assistant head postman when the duty which he had been working for four and a half years was made an assistant head postman's duty; and further why the 3s. allowance which he had been receiving during that time was not added to his wages.

(*Answered by Mr. Austen Chamberlain.*) Postman Mason was not appointed assistant head postman because he had not the qualifications necessary for that appointment. The duty for which Mason had received a temporary allowance of 3s. a week was not equivalent to that of an assistant head postman, and the allowance ceased when he ceased to perform the duty.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN (Stirling Burghs) asked the First Lord of the Treasury if he could lay down a more definite programme for business next week, especially in reference to Supply on Thursday, and if the right hon. Gentleman could fix a day for the discussion of the Sugar Convention Bill.

---

† See (4) *Debates*, cxxiv., 377.

THE PRIME MINISTER AND FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Mr. A. J. BALFOUR (Manchester, E.) said some ambiguity was thrown over the proceedings for next week; and having looked into the matter he believed the most convenient course would be to take the Irish Estimates on Monday, assuming that the Report stage of the Irish Land Bill would be finished during the afternoon. If that stage should not be completed it would not be possible to take the remaining portion of the Bill on Monday and Irish Estimates afterwards, for that would be contrary to the rule for taking Supply as the first Order. Irish Supply would be taken on Monday if the Report stage of the Land Bill finished by half-past Five. On Tuesday he proposed to put the Third Reading of the Land Bill as first order, and to follow with the Licensing Acts (Scotland) Bill, Report, the Employment of Children Bill, the Metropolitan Streets Bill, and the Committee on the Naval Works Bill, in the order mentioned. He could not yet say what would be the first order on Wednesday. On Thursday the Foreign Office Vote and the Colonial Office Vote would be put down, and he would comply with the general desire as to which of these should be first order. In these circumstances it would not be possible to take the Sugar Convention Bill next week.

SIR. H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN said as to the preference between the Colonial Office Vote and the Foreign Office Vote he would gather opinions by Monday.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean) said the decision on this point should be known as soon as possible, because it might make a difference in the arrangements hon. Members desired to make.

IRISH LAND BILL.

As amended, considered.

MR. T. M. HEALY (Louth, N.) said the Amendment he desired to move stood fifth upon the Paper. It was not, he thought, too much to ask that the appeal to the Privy Council should be abolished where land was desired to be acquired by a local authority for the purpose of building labourers' cottages and the making of roads. Previous to the passing of the Local Government Act for Ireland the old Grand Juries had tremendous power in regard to the making of roads and an appeal to the Privy Council under those circumstances might have been necessary. But now that the tenants had the matter in their own hands and elected the County Councils such an appeal was not necessary. He begged to move.

Clause. (Compulsory acquisition land.)

"Where any land or easement sold under the provisions of the Land Purchase Acts is required by any local authority under any Act enabling such authority compulsorily to acquire same, no appeal shall lie from any order of the Local Government Board sanctioning the acquisition of such land under the Labourers (Ireland) Acts, the Public Health (Ireland) Acts, or the Local Government (Ireland) Acts, and the decision of the Judge of Assize under Section 10, Sub-section 3 (d) of the Local Government (Ireland) Act, 1898, shall be final except when the order therein referred to is refused."—(*Mr. T. M. Healy.*)

Brought up, and read the first time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the clause be read a second time."

THE CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND (Mr. WYNDHAM, Dover) said this proposal, though perhaps within the scope of the Bill, was somewhat foreign to the general purport of the Land Purchase Bill as he read that all rights of appeal against Provisional Orders should be abolished. That was a very large proposal and one upon which a good deal might have to be said before it was assented to. He had stated in Committee that he could not grapple with the question of the Labourers Acts in this Bill, and therefore he could not accept the Amendment.

MR. T. W. RUSSELL (Tyrone, S.) said they quite recognised that with regard to this matter the right hon. Gentleman had many difficulties to contend with, but he hoped the right hon. Gentleman would bear in mind that those who represented the tenant farmers also had their difficulties. The existing appeal to the Privy Council with regard to the question of labourers' cottages was one of the greatest absurdities on the Statute-book, and he hoped the matter would be dealt with in the Labourers Bill which was promised for next session.

Mr. T. M. HEALY said as there was some misapprehension with regard to the matter he would beg leave to withdraw the clause.

Motion and Clause, by leave, withdrawn.

Mr. T. M. HEALY said his next Amendment was one to which the Government had no answer. He postponed it on the Committee stage as he understood the Government were considering the question. It seemed to him to be a monstrous thing that men should be deprived of the right to have their rents varied through no fault of their own, but through the failure of the Government to advertise in the *Gazette*. It seemed strange that the Government should allow this law which had fallen into disuse to remain as it was. The Government had remedied the grievance so far as the most unmeritorious class, the owners of the land, was concerned, but the people for whom he spoke had no influence to get it remedied so far as they were concerned. He begged to move.

Clause (Variable head rents.)

"Where by reason of the non-publication of the average prices of produce in the *Dublin Gazette*, it has become impossible judicially to determine the amount by which any variable rent calculable upon an average of prices should be varied, Sections 2 and 3 of the Act of the sixty-third and sixty-fourth years of Victoria, chapter fifty-eight, shall apply in the case of such variable rents, and the words 'tithe rent-charge,' in the said sections, shall be deemed to include any variable rent as aforesaid."—(*Mr. T. M. Healy.*)

Brought up, and read the first time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the clause be read a second time."

Mr WYNDHAM said his sympathy was entirely with this clause, but if they attempted to remedy one grievance it would open the door to other appeals, and they would have others forced upon them, endangering the progress of the Bill. If good reason was shown in the other House for accepting the Amendment it could be accepted there. He did not think he ought to accept it here.

*Sir JOHN COLOMB (Great Yarmouth) speaking generally on behalf of the landlords, said they were strongly in favour of the Amendment.

Mr. WYNDHAM in these circumstances assented to the clause.

Question put, and agreed to.

Clause added to the Bill.

Clause (Sub-divided holdings.)

"In the construction of Section 5, Sub-section 3, of The Land Law (Ireland) Act, 1896, the words 'tenants in common' shall be deemed to include two or more persons between whom the holding is divided."—(*Mr. T. M. Healy.*)

Brought up, and read the first time.

Motion made, and Question "That the clause be read a second time," put and agreed to.

Clause added to the Bill.

*Mr. T. W. RUSSELL said that whilst he had little hope of succeeding in adding the clause he now proposed to the Bill, he must, on behalf of the farmers in the north of Ireland, enter a protest against the manner in which, in recent years, they had been deprived of the Ulster custom. A landlord could take a third of the tenant's property and then go into the market and sell the farm for its full value. This was a very real grievance, and was bitterly felt in Ulster. He begged to move.

Clause (Abolition of landlord's right of pre-emption.)

"Sub-section 3 of Section 1 of The Land Law (Ireland) Act, 1881, relating to the right of the landlord to purchase a holding is hereby repealed."—(*Mr. T. W. Russell.*)

Brought up, and read the first time.

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the clause be read a second time."

Mr. WYNDHAM said the House would gather that this was a question which excited a great deal of interest in Ulster, and that it was an extremely controversial subject. Without expressing any opinion he deprecated discussing controversial matters for the reason he had given.

*MR. T. W. RUSSELL said it was his duty on behalf of the Ulster farmers to enter his protest. He had received many representations on the question. He begged leave to withdraw the clause.

Motion and Clause, by leave, withdrawn.

*MR. LONSDALE (Armagh, Mid) said his right hon. friend the Chief Secretary justified the grant of £5,000 to Trinity College—which was provided for by Clause 38 of the Bill—on the ground that unless that clause was added to the Bill, land purchase would be hampered over a great part of Ireland. He went so far as to say that—

> "In his deliberate opinion, if it were not adopted some 9,000 or 10,000 tenant occupiers would be debarred from taking advantage of the Act."

The Chief Secretary added—

> "The clause was necessary—if distasteful—if land purchase in respect of all these tenants was not to be hung up."

Now, it was with the interests of those 9,000 or 10,000 tenant-occupiers—and especially with the interests of those who resided in the constituency which he had the honour to represent—that he was concerned. The Chief Secretary had shown that he appreciated the position in which these tenants would be placed, and in their behalf he wanted to obtain from his right hon. friend some further explanation as to how Clause 38 was expected to work. How would that clause, of itself, and without further provision being made, facilitate land purchase in the case of the occupiers of Trinity College lands? How was it going to remove the barrier which stood in the way of these tenants becoming the purchasers of their holdings? He voted for the grant to Trinity College, because he believed it would pave the way for a new clause that would really benefit the tenant occupiers by enabling their immediate landlords to secure the redemption of the head-rents at such a price as would allow of the estates being sold to the tenants on fair terms. He could not for the life of him see how this grant of £5,000 to Trinity College—standing alone—was going to benefit the tenants of Trinity College lands in the slightest degree. His right hon. friend the Chief Secretary himself seemed doubtful as to whether the grant would be sufficient to accomplish the object which he firmly believed he was anxious to achieve. He admitted, in fact, that he was not confident that even this additional aid would succeed in solving the question. He (Mr. Lonsdale) was more than doubtful on the point. The information which he had received convinced him that, unless the grant was followed up by some such provision as that now proposed, the tenants of these Trinity College lands would be denied those opportunities of becoming owners of their farms which were being extended to other classes of tenants. That would be a deplorable result, and he appealed to the Chief Secretary to consider very carefully whether he could not accept the plan suggested for giving effect to the desire they all entertained, that every tenant-occupier in Ireland should be placed in full possession, as owner, of his holding.

Now, what were the facts in regard to these Trinity College lands? Certain lands, amounting in all to about 150,000 acres, were held from Trinity College by tenants in perpetuity. The Solicitor-General for Ireland had told them there were about 100 of these grantees; but the tenants under them numbered 9,000 or 10,000. These occupiers were now almost all judicial tenants. Since the passing of the Act of 1881, they had had their rents judicially revised twice and were now paying to their immediate landlords, the grantees, rents from 30 to 40 per cent. below the rents they paid up to 1881. On the other hand, the rents paid by the grantees to Trinity College had *not* been reduced. On the contrary, they had stood at the high level to which they were raised prior to 1881. The grantees therefore had suffered a serious loss of income through the operation of the Act of 1881. In some cases, that loss of income had been as much as 75 and 80 per cent.; while in one instance that had been brought to his notice. Trinity College received from the grantee considerably more than the grantee got in the shape of rent from his tenants, and was obliged to make good the loss out of his other properties. Another point that had to be borne in mind in connection with these Trinity College estates was that the grantees had spent very large sums of money in improving and developing the property. That expenditure, representing so much capital sunk in the soil, had not produced any interest in recent years, owing to the heavy reductions in rent. He was not advancing a claim upon the sympathy of the House for the middlemen landlords. His object was simply to show the bearing of the facts he had stated upon the problem of purchase; and to show the difficulty that stood in the way of the occupiers under these grantees becoming the purchasers of their holdings. Under the scheme of purchase embodied in the Bill the price to be paid to the grantees would be calculated on the reduced rental of the holdings. The superior interest, the amount due to Trinity College as head landlord, would, on the other hand, have to be redeemed upon the unreduced rental. That was how the matter stood. The grantee under Trinity College might be very anxious to sell his estate to his tenants; but he would be deterred from taking the necessary steps by the fear that if he entered into purchase arrangements he might find himself squeezed between the upper and the nether millstone. He very naturally shrank from embarking upon an undertaking which might result in his being deprived both of land and money. Unless he was reassured on that head and was afforded a reasonable prospect of securing a fair price for his interest in the land and a fair return upon the capital he or his family might have invested in the estate, he would refuse to sell, and the tenants on his estate would be left out in the cold. He was not justifying that attitude. He was simply stating the facts. Those facts must be faced and dealt with if land purchase was not to be hung up indefinitely in the cases of a large number of the best, most progressive, and most worthy of the farmers of Ireland.

But although he held no brief for the middlemen landlords he felt bound to protest against the tone adopted towards them by his right hon. friend the Solicitor-General for Ireland. His remarks, when speaking in Committee on Clause 38, conveyed to his mind a covert suggestion that up to 1881 these landlords had been charging excessive rents to their tenants. Trinity College had certainly raised the head-rents, and it might be that some middlemen extracted more than they should have done from the occupiers under them. But that was not the case in every instance. One of these landlords who had written to him said—

> "I know that so far as my grant is concerned, my father only carried forward to the occupying tenants one half the increase the college added to his rents in 1866, and paid the rest out of his own pocket and never raised the rents on any other occasion."

He had no doubt the same thing happened on other estates; because he knew among the Trinity College grantees were to be found some of the best of the Irish landlords. At all events he maintained that this suggestion of merciless exaction on the part of the middlemen came with a very bad grace from the representative of Trinity College, which, he himself admitted, had distinguished itself by a rigorous maintenance of its rights; but which could not claim to have distinguished itself by any fulfilment of the duties attaching to property. He would ask the Solicitor-General to inform them whether it was not a fact that when Trinity College obtained possession of the O'Connell property at Cahirciveen, in 1865, they raised the rents in that village from £200 to about £700 a year. Trinity College did not in every case leave the occupiers of its lands to the tender mercies of the middlemen. Some of their tenants apparently had reason to wish they had done so. The middlemen landlords had certainly shown some regard for the duties attaching to property, and it was beyond dispute that in many cases they had spent very large sums of money in developing their estates and in improvements from which their tenants had derived benefit. They were now confronted by the prospect of having to lose the whole of this capital which had been expended on improvements, and that was the consideration which was likely to deter them from entering into purchase arrangements with their tenants. Up to the present time nothing had fallen from the Government which was calculated to relieve their minds from anxiety or encourage them to offer their estates for sale.

What they wanted to know was how many years purchase of the head-rent would Trinity College require to satisfy their demands. Was it correct to assume that Trinity College looked to obtain twenty-five years purchase of the head-rents? The Chief Secretary said in Committee—

> "It was estimated that the net loss to Trinity College would be £9,000 a year,"

if the present head-rents were redeemed. The total of the College head-rents was £36,000 a year. The capital value of that sum at 3 per cent. would be £1,200,000, which would represent thirty-three years purchase. But the College estimated to lose £9,000 a year—reducing the income to £27,000. The capital value of that sum at 3 per cent. would be £900,000—which would represent twenty-five years purchase of the existing head-rents. If the College really meant to stand out for twenty-five years purchase, then he was afraid the grantees would not be at all disposed to entertain proposals for the sale of their estates. The redemption of the superior interest on such terms would entail such financial sacrifice upon them that they would absolutely decline to sell. What was needed to overcome the serious obstacle to purchase which stood in the path of 10,000 tenant farmers was some such scheme of varying the head-rents in proportion to the variation in the occupiers' judicial rents, as that now proposed. It was all very well for the Solicitor-General to proclaim the inviolability of the arrangement entered into by Trinity College and its grantees, which was embodied in the Act of 1851. The arrangement of 1851 was not a mutual agreement in any real sense of the word. The grantees could not be said to be free agents. They were practically compelled to submit to all that the college demanded. Otherwise their old leases would have been run out in twenty years, and their improvements—including in some cases their family residences—would have been confiscated by the college. The Solicitor-General boasted that the college had held rigorously to the Act of 1851. Of course they had. But why? Simply because they profited by it. Owing to the scale adopted for fixing rents the income of the senior fellows was largely increased, besides being made more secure. The Solicitor-General said had rents gone down Trinity College would have suffered. Doubtless, but in that case he wondered whether Trinity College would have been content rigorously to abide by the arrangement. The admission of the Solicitor-General justified the demand now made for a fresh system of valuation of these head-rents. It was the evident intention of the Legislature that the college and the middlemen should share and share alike as to the ups and downs of value. But while Trinity College rents had gone up and kept up all these years, the middlemen's rents had gone lower and lower. He maintained there was nothing inequitable in the proposition that the balance should be restored; and the grantees of Trinity College be placed in such a position that they would be able to sell their estates to their tenants without prospect of loss.

How was this to be done? The plan which he suggested was that the grantees of Trinity College lands, and the tenants of lands held under Church perpetuity leases should be able to go into Court and obtain a revision of their rents, so that they would be proportionate to the rents they received from their sub-tenants. Purchase could then proceed throughout upon the revised rentals. The purchase advance for the holdings would be calculated, as the Bill provides, upon the judicial rents; and the amount due in respect of the head-rent would be proportioned in accordance with the revised rental. The grantees would, in that case, stand to receive some return for their capital and interest in the land, which would, at all events, ensure that they would not adopt a policy of "passive resistance." Further, he would call attention to the precedent established by the Tithe Rent-Charge (Ireland) Act, 1900. That Act provided that all tithe rent-charges should be varied in accordance with the average percentage of the variation of judicial rents. If tithe rent-charges could be so varied, why not head-rents? Tithes had been reduced by as much as 28 per cent. and he could see no reason why this system of revision should not be applied to the head-rents. The machinery was in existence, and ready to hand. It might be easily and quickly applied, so as to remove what was undoubtedly a serious obstacle to the scheme of this Bill. He might point out that occupying sub-grantees in perpetuity were admitted by the Land Act of 1887 to the benefits of the Act of 1881. A statutory perpetuity grant was thus varied by Parliament in favour of occupying tenants What Parliament has done Parliament might be reasonably asked to do again. It might be argued that the superior landlord does not want to sell and that no proportion of the loss should fall upon him. He thought the answer to that was that the State wished the sale to take place; and it was manifestly unfair that all the loss should fall upon the middle landlord. As he had shown, the practical result of leaving this difficulty untouched would be to hinder land purchase in a great number of cases and interpose a serious obstacle to the complete success of the Act.

Clause (Trinity College and church perpetuity leases.)

"Holders of land under ecclesiastical perpetuity leases and Trinity College leases may apply to the Land Commission to have their rents reduced proportionately to the reductions of rent granted to their tenants; and the Land Commission shall reduce such rents accordingly, and shall, in the case of any holding subject to a judicial rent fixed or agreed to before the passing of the Act of 1896, make a further reduction of ten per cent. on the rent payable for such holding."—(*Mr. Lonsdale.*)

Brought up, and read the first time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the clause be read a second time."

MR. WYNDHAM admitted that the hon. Member had earnestly pleaded the cause of these people, but it would be inadvisable, he thought, to enter fully into the question then, because he understood it was the general wish of the House that the Report stage should be concluded that day. The hon. Member's proposal opened up a vista of controversial questions, which if entered into fully would take up so much time as to defeat the object they all had at heart. The hon. Member had not taken into account the fact that there might be more than one middleman, and he did not perhaps give as much allowance as he might for many provisions in the Bill, which assisted the class whose cause he had championed. His (the Chief Secretary's) chief reason for insisting that the bonus should go to the vendor was to help the class to whom the hon. Member had referred. Further than that he could not go, and he would ask the hon. Member to accept that assurance, and not to think that he was insensible of the importance of the question he had raised.

MR. DILLON (Mayo, E.) said the expressions of impatience from his colleagues were addressed not to the merits of the proposal, but to the length of the speech of the hon. Member. Unless Members made up their minds to present their case within moderate limits they could not under the circumstances expect to obtain a fair hearing. He and many of his colleagues strongly sympathised with the view of the hon. Member, and they greatly feared that unless some such proposal were accepted the £5,000 grant to Trinity College would have no effect whatever in facilitating the sale of lands to the Trinity tenants. The whole sum would be grabbed by Trinity College, and middlemen and tenants would be left exactly in the same position as if no grant had been made.

MR. T. M. HEALY pointed out that in Committee the Chief Secretary contemplated taking further action, either by Royal Commission or a Committee of the House, to investigate the entire question. He hoped, therefore, the right hon. Gentleman would indicate some plan in order that the matter might not remain where it was.

MR. WYNDHAM was understood to say that the matter would be looked into in the autumn.

MR. FLAVIN (Kerry, N.) said there was a strong feeling on the part of Irish

Members in regard to this matter which affected about 1,000 tenants in North Kerry. He would give one case as a sample. A middleman, who formerly received £2,735 in rents from his tenants, now received only £1,641, but in the same period his rent to Trinity College had been increased from £954 to £1,255, so that while the amount he received had decreased by 40 per cent., the rental he paid had increased by 30 per cent. It appeared therefore that Trinity College had got the best of the deal. He hoped the Chief Secretary would see that there was fair play all round.

Question put, and negatived.

MR. LONSDALE formally moved a new clause.

Clause (Mill farms).

"A tenant of a holding upon which a mill is situated may make application to the Court, and the Court may direct that the non-agricultural portion of the holding shall be separated from the agricultural portion thereof, and may determine the proportion of rent to be allocated to each portion, and may thereupon fix a fair rent for the agricultural portion of the holding, to which the Land Law Acts shall then apply as if it was a separate holding."—(*Mr. Lonsdale.*)

Brought up, and read the first time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the clause be read a second time."

MR. WYNDHAM replied that it would not be possible to enter upon an Amendment of the Act of 1896 if they intended to finish the Report stage that day.

Question put, and negatived.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 1, line 13, to leave out the words 'as amended by this Act.'"—(*Mr. Wyndham.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Bill."

MR. JOHN REDMOND (Waterford) took the opportunity of pointing out that he and his colleagues had not put down any Amendments to that stage of the Bill, but it should not be taken as meaning that they were at all satisfied with the form in which the Bill left Committee. There were a number of important points raised in Committee on which they could not get their way and which in the ordinary course they would have felt bound to raise again and discuss on the Report stage. But the circumstances under which they met were of an extraordinary character. If they discussed all the points on which they were dissatisfied it would take some days, and at that time of the session the passage of the Bill would be imperilled. Therefore they had abstained from placing any Amendments on the paper. They had some reason to complain that the chief measure of the session was not brought forward earlier, so that there would have been time for discussion at the present stage. They had, however, to face the inevitable and do nothing to imperil the passage of the Bill.

Question put, and negatived.

*MR T. W. RUSSELL moved the omission of the proviso to Clause 1. He said the zone for the first-term rents stipulated that the tenant should get a reduction of at least 20 per cent. and not more than 40 per cent. He did not seek to alter that, but to leave out what followed namely—

"Provided that in the case of a holding subject to a judicial rent fixed or agreed to before the passing of the Act of 1896, the Land Commission may, if they think it equitable, and if the purchase agreement so provides treat the holding for the purposes of this section as a holding subject to a judicial rent fixed since the passing of the Act of 1896."

That was to say, that a tenant farmer going into a holding with a first-term rent had a right under the zone to a 20 per cent. reduction, but if he could be bamboozled into signing an agreement to be transferred to the second zone that right was taken away and his reduction limited to ten per cent. What was the object of that? He did not think this was a fair proposal, and it ought to be left out.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 1, line 25, to leave out from beginning of the line to the end of line 3, page 2."—(*Mr. T. W. Russell.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out, to the word 'may,' in line 27, stand part of the Bill."

Mr. WYNDHAM said that when they were discussing the first clause of the Bill he contemplated that a solution of the difficulty which had arisen might have been found by putting a complementary proviso providing that in some cases second-term rents might be turned into first-term rents. He thought, however, that under the circumstances, they must adhere to this proposal as it was left in the Committee stage. Clause 1 read with Clause 5, and he thought it was a good solution of a difficult question which had been arrived at by the consent of hon. Members representing various parts of Ireland. Therefore he should do all in his power to maintain it.

*Mr. T. W. RUSSELL said that upon that statement he would ask leave to withdraw his Amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Mr. T. M. HEALY in moving the Amendment standing in his name said he thought it would be better to have the definition in the way he suggested rather than have a new definition imported into the clause. There was no such thing known to the law as a large farm. There were a number of cases of very great hardship, in his judgment, where the tenant had been compelled to keep his land in grass because of a covenant forced down his throat by an old lease. Be that as it might, it seemed to him that the true test should be whether he could get a fair rent fixed or not. That was a safe and certain plan, and to tamper with Mr. Gladstone's legislation by fresh exclusions was a most dangerous course. Such technicalities caused difficulties never dreamt of by those who inserted them, and if it was taken in the form he suggested, he knew that a very large number in his constituency who were interested in the matter would appreciate it. He begged to move.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 2, line 23, to leave out from the word 'a' to end of line 25, and insert the words 'holding to which the Land Law (Ireland) Acts apply.'"—(*Mr. T. M. Healy.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Bill."

Mr. WILLIAM O'BRIEN (Cork) said he was sorry to have to differ from his hon. and learned friend, and he urged the Chief Secretary to stick to the words of the clause. He believed there was scarcely a sentence in the whole Bill which would be received with more satisfaction, and there was no part in which this would be more intensely felt than in Meath and West Meath, where the mass of the small holders suffered just as keenly as the people of Connaught. One of the largest agriculturists in Leinster wrote to him stating that it would be almost better to retain the £3,000 or £5,000 limit in the Bill than let the grass men buy without cultivation. Quite 40 per cent. of the sales would depend upon the proper arrangement of this question. This large farmer who wrote to him was one of those who would be shut out by the limit, but he said that on public grounds it would be a lesser evil than to employ the taxpayers' money to stereotype the grass question. There were districts in Ireland where the Bill would work no good for many years if the grass men got the right without cultivation. Under the law as it stood at present, the graziers had quite enough facilities out of the public funds for carrying out a system which was pauperising the people of the country. What the National Convention desired was encouragement for tillage and employment, and the Resolution of the Convention was met by the clause as it stood. He thought the right hon. Gentleman could rely upon it if he stood by the words of this clause that the result would be to create almost universal satisfaction amongst the masses of the people of Ireland.

*Mr. T. W. RUSSELL said he differed from the hon. Member for Cork upon this matter. He thought that under this Bill any man who had a holding to which the Land Acts applied, ought not to be debarred from the benefits of the Act, and, without any desire to stereotype graziers, he thought the clause as it stood would shut out a large number of men who held judicial rents. These words were exceedingly difficult of interpretation. Anyone who had followed the discussion on the land question in Court, knew that over the word "mainly" the most terrific fights had taken place, and that one word had put more money into the lawyers' pockets than would have paid half the rents involved. He could understand the laughter on the Front Ministerial Bench. The junior Member for Trinity College had a really good time over that word. These tenants had to prove that holdings had been so used for five years before the passing of this Act, and that would be rather difficult. He agreed with the hon. Member for Louth that the safest way was to walk in the old path.

MR. WYNDHAM said he would endeavour to persuade the hon. Member for Cork City that if he accepted the Amendment of the hon. and learned Member for Louth he should not let in the graziers. That was the one thing he should not do, because the holdings were any non-residential grass holdings and any residential holdings of a higher value than £100 a year. It could not be urged against this Amendment that it would enable graziers to buy up land that might otherwise be purchased by the tenants. The hon. and learned Member asked him why he did not leave the matter as it stood. On the Committee stage he stated that it would be necessary to scrutinise those words very carefully to see what their legal bearing and interpretation would be. After consideration he had concluded that those words would give rise to a great deal of litigation. If they took the words suggested by the hon. Member for Louth, they would know where they were, and if they attempted to describe the case in the Act they might get into a difficulty. Further down on the Paper he had an Amendment on page 3 to leave out lines 7 to 12, the object of which was to apply for the purpose, for example, of putting an evicted tenant back upon a holding and for dealing with congestion of the limitations as to purchase. The £7,000 limit would be defined and construed in accordance with this provision. Unless they ran the risk of not being able to give a man something equal to the holding he had lost, and not being able to move a large farmer in order to remove congestion in that vicinity, they must put a liberal interpretation here, and take a liberal definition. Unless they did this the £7,000 limit would become inoperative.

MR. LEAMY (Kildare, N.) reminded his hon. friend that the object of forming this clause was to give the benefits of the Bill to a class who were not included as the Bill was originally drawn. If the clause were passed as it stood the constituents of his hon. friend the Member for Louth would undoubtedly benefit, but he was not quite sure that the tenants of a number of pretty large farms would be particularly pleased by discovering that so many of them would be excluded.

MR. FLYNN (Cork Co., N.) said he would look with considerable jealousy on any Amendment which would interfere with the arrangement which was formerly made. It was no sympathy with lawyers that would induce him to say that the words in the Bill should remain, but surely after the experience they had had on questions of construction nobody could be deceived as to the meaning of the words in the Bill as they stood "mainly used for tillage and dairying purposes." As between the words in the Bill and the words in the Amendment he would say that ninety-nine out of a hundred of his constituents would be in favour of the words in the Bill.

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL FOR IRELAND (Mr. ATKINSON, Londonderry, N.) said the result of keeping the clause as it stood would be that no evicted tenant would be able to get an advance up to £7,000 for anything except a large farm which had been used for five years mainly for tillage or dairying purposes. He was perfectly confident that they would exclude some of the largest evicted tenants in Ireland whom they wished to restore to their original holdings by permitting advances up to £7,000.

Question put, and negatived.

Question "That those words be there inserted in the Bill" put, and agreed to.

Mr. BUTCHER (York), moved an Amendment making the section applicable to holdings "in respect of which the Land Commissioners have given a certificate under section six of this Act." He said the object of the Amendment was to carry out the provisions of the Bill.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 2, line 27, to leave out the words 'as defined by this Act,' and insert the words 'in respect of which the Land Commission have given a certificate under section six of this Act.'"—(*Mr. Butcher.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Bill."

Mr. WYNDHAM said he thought these words made the intention clearer. It was all the more necessary to make the intention clear because of the Amendment which he accepted of the hon. Member for Mayo. In the definition of congestion there was originally a standard of area as well as a standard of price, and at the instance of the hon. Member for Mayo he omitted the standard of area and confined it to holdings of the annual value of £5. He urged on the Committee, and he thought the Committee agreed with him, that the definition of what was a congested estate was not consistent with an estate on which half the holdings were of £5 annual value. It might be an estate of small dairy farms. The true definition of a congested estate was an estate which was certified to need aid because of the wants of the tenants upon it. In Sub-section 4 of Clause 6 there was the true test of what was a congested estate. Sub-section 5 was only a Treasury check. The Government was not to say that an estate was congested merely because the holdings were of so much value, so that it was proper to take as the true definition the circumstances of the tenants and not the Treasury check on the money in the case. It was all the more necessary to do that since at the instance of the hon. Member he took out the standard of area.

Mr. DILLON hoped the right hon. Gentleman would not accept the Amendment. He thought the action taken by the rish Party deserved a considerable amount of recognition from the Government and also from hon. Members opposite. They had abstained from bringing forward a number of points on which they were extremely interested. On the point dealt with by the hon. Member for Waterford they exercised a considerable self-restraint. The Amendment now before the House might seem small, but it raised a question of far-reaching importance, because that touched the whole of the matter of the definition of a congested estate. That very question of the definition of a congested estate was one which was debated at considerable length in Committee, and which he would have very much desired to press again on the Report Stage, but he abstained from doing so in accordance with an agreement come to by his Party. He protested against the right hon. Gentleman without any serious cause making any change in this machinery. He would like to know if he was correct in saying that this Amendment, which exempted certain estates from the restrictions on the operation of Clause 1 as regarded the zones, and as it originally stood exempted all estates defined in this section as congested estates, now limited that exemption and limited it on the extraordinary statement of the Chief Secretary that when an estate fell within the definition of a holding of £5 value it might be prosperous. To assume that they might be, was to his mind a most extraordinary doctrine, because he held that the limit of £5 was too low, and that in this great measure of policy for the future resettlement of Ireland £10 ought to be the lowest limit for an economical holding. This Amendment involved the assumption that land valued at £5 a year might be prosperous land. He hoped the right hon. Gentleman would not accept contentious Amendments of this kind.

Mr. ATKINSON said if the Amendment was not accepted there would be estates which would not be entitled to any of the benefits of the Bill

Mr. DILLON: What are the benefits from which they will be excluded?

Mr. ATKINSON said he would take the advance of £7,000. A congested estate if it satisfied the first definition, but without satisfying the others would lose the benefit of all the preceding sub-sections of Clause 1, and yet inasmuch as the Commissioners did not certify it would not get the benefit of this clause. So it would be absolutely left out in the cold.

MR. DILLON: What are the other benefits?

MR. ATKINSON said what they wanted in order that an estate should get the benefit was that it should conform to this definition of the £5 value. For instance, if half the estate consisted of small farms and the other half say of six large farms, such an estate could not have any of the benefits of Clause 1.

Question put, and negatived.

Question, "That those words be there inserted in the Bill," put, and agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 2, line 35, to leave out the words 'ten acres in area and.'"—(*Mr. Wyndham.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out, stand part of the Bill."

MR. DILLON said he gladly admitted that the Chief Secretary's Amendment was a great improvement on the present definition, but he wished to record his conviction that a limit of £5 was a great mistake in a great operation of this character. It was too narrow a restraint on the discretion of the Commissioners. There was force in the argument of the right hon. Gentleman that there was not sufficient land to go round; but the Commissioners should have some discretion, and naturally they would use the land at their disposal to increase the holdings below £5 in rateable value before giving land to holdings above that value; but he knew of districts where they would have sufficient land, and why, in such districts, should the Commissioners be forbidden to give an addition to farms which were of £6 or £7 rateable value? He regretted that the Government could not see their way to alter the limit.

Question put, and negatived.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 2, line 40, to leave out the word, 'a,' and insert the word, 'that.'"—(*Mr. Wyndham.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 3, line 6, to leave out the words, 'five hundred,' and insert the words, 'one thousand.'"—(*Mr. Wyndham.*)

Question proposed, "That the words 'five hundred' stand part of the Bill."

MR. DILLON said he wished to take the opportunity of saying that this was a very generous proposal of the Chief Secretary, and that the right hon. Gentleman had fully and honourably redeemed every promise he had made.

Question put, and negatived.

Question, "That the words 'one thousand' be there inserted in the Bill," put, and agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 3, to leave out lines 7 to 12, inclusive, and insert the words 'Provided that the limitation in this Sub-section may, subject to the other limitations in the Land Purchase Acts be exceeded, where the Land Commission consider that a larger advance may be sanctioned to any purchaser without prejudice to the wants and circumstances of other persons residing in the neighbourhood."—(*Mr. Wyndham.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 3, line 29, after the word 'vendor,' to insert the words 'or (in the case of an estate purchased from the Land Judge) to the former owner of the estate or a person nominated by the Land Commission as his representative."—(*Mr. Wyndham.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 3, line 30, to leave out the words 'to the vendor.'"—(*Mr. Wyndham.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 3, line 34, at end, to add the words '(3) In entering into agreements for the resale of any land to the vendor of an estate the Land Commission shall have regard to the amount of land available for the enlargement of holdings where they consider such enlargement necessary. (4) Where an advance is made in pursuance of this section the Judicial Commissioner may, if he thinks it equitable, on the application of any person who, at the date of the sale of the land to the Land Commission, was entitled to any estate in remainder or reversion in that land order, upon such terms and conditions as he may think reasonable, that the land so resold shall devolve in accordance with the terms of the settlement which at the date of the sale to the Land Commission affected it."—(*Mr. Wyndham.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted in the Bill."

MR. WILLIAM O'BRIEN said he felt bound to say that the right hon. Gentleman's Amendment carried out fully and satisfactorily the undertaking he gave in Committee. It certainly made the power of the Estate Commissioners as complete as one could reasonably desire. He believed that the generous treatment of the evicted tenants would be, to a large extent, the touchstone by which the administration of this Act would be judged in Ireland. It was as much in the interest of the landlords as the tenants that this question should be settled in a generous way with no list of prescriptions, and that seemed to him to be the spirit of the right hon. Gentleman's Amendment.

MR. T. M. HEALY said the current tenants would be excluded under this Amendment.

Proposed Amendment amended—

"In line 5, by leaving out the words 'an advance is made,' and inserting the words 'any land is resold to the vendor.'"—(*Colonel Wyndham-Quin.*)

Proposed words, as amended, inserted in the Bill.

MR. T. M. HEALY said that when the Bill was in Committee the Member for Cambridge joined with him in pointing out the difficulties that might arise from shadowy claims to the foreshore. It was desirable that on the sale of an estate with the strand, the whole of the tenants on the estate should not be shut out from the use of the sand, gravel, or seaweed which they had long enjoyed by what he admitted was a shadowy right. He moved.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 3, line 39, after the word 'pasturage,' to insert the words "acquiring foreshore or land for raising sand, gravel, or seaweed, or for the construction of piers."—(*Mr. T. M. Healy.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted in the Bill."

SIR ROBERT FITZGERALD (Cambridge) said he hoped the Chief Secretary would see his way to accept this Amendment, because it would stop a great deal of litigation and quarrelling, and place the right to the foreshore in the hands of a body of trustees who could settle all disputes as to the raising of sand and gravel and gathering of sea-weed.

MR. WYNDHAM said he could not accept the words of the Amendment of the hon. and learned Member for Louth as they stood, but he would agree to the following words, "the raising of sand or gravel, the cutting or gathering of sea-weed."

MR. T. M. HEALY said he would take anything he could get and be thankful.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

In page 3, line 39, after the word 'pasturage,' to insert the words 'the raising of sand or gravel, the cutting or gathering of seaweed.'" —(*Mr. Wyndham.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 7, lines 6 and 7, to leave out the words 'where an estate or untenanted land is vested in them'"—(*Mr. Wyndham.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Bill."

MR. WILLIAM O'BRIEN said that this was one of the Amendments which, he was glad to say, obliterated every distinction between one class of tenants and another; and it would make most decidedly for the peace of the country and the success of the Bill. The Amendment was simple and clear.

MR. WYNDHAM said that his object was to make the matter clear. He had also other Amendments by which he meant to put the direct sales on the same level as the sales through the Land Commission.

Question put, and negatived.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 7, line 9, to leave out the words 'the estate,' and insert the word 'estates.'"—(*Mr. Wyndham.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 7, line 9, at end to insert the words 'purchased or proposed to be purchased under this Act.'"—(*Mr. Wyndham.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 8, line 34, at beginning, to insert the words 'In the case of the sale of an estate.'"—(*Mr. Wyndham.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 8, line 36, to leave out the word 'an,' and insert the word 'the.'"—(*Mr. Wyndham.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 8, lines 36 and 37, to leave out the words, 'purchased by them or by the Congested Districts Board.'"—(*Mr. Wyndham.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Bill."

MR. CLANCY (Dublin Co., N.) said that this was an Amendment in the direction of an Amendment he himself had proposed, and it appeared to him satisfactory.

MR. WYNDHAM said that he had entertained great doubts of doing as much in the case of direct purchase as he had contemplated in the case of purchase by the Land Commission. He had been working at the problem during the last week, and he was satisfied that his proposed Amendment would work satisfactorily.

Question put, and negatived.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 9, line 3, after the word 'agreement,' to insert the words, 'by all persons interested.'"—(*Sir John Colomb.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted in the Bill."

MR. WYNDHAM said he thought this Amendment went further than was necessary. He quite agreed that an opportunity should be given for coming to an agreement, but he would prefer the words "between the owner of the estate and the owner of the intervening interest."

*SIR JOHN COLOMB accepted the suggestion.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 9, line 3, after the word 'agreement,' to insert the words 'between the owner of the estate and the owner of the intervening interest.'"—(*Mr. Wyndham.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 11, line 39, to leave out from the word 'of,' to the word 'by,' in line 41, and insert 'section four of.'"—(*Mr. T. M. Healy.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendments proposed to the Bill—

"In page 12, line 14, after the word 'cutting' to insert the words 'or making.'"

"In page 12, line 21, to leave out the words 'or making.'"—(*Mr. J. P. Farrell.*)

Amendments agreed to.

Amendments proposed to the Bill—

"In page 13, line 13, to leave out the words 'and shall hold office during pleasure.'"

"In page 13, line 13, at end to insert the words (4) 'The Estates Commissioners shall hold office during pleasure, but any Estates Commissioner shall only be removed from his office by an Order in Council, and any such Order shall be laid before each House of Parliament forthwith, and if an Address is presented to His Majesty by either House of Parliament within the next subsequent forty days on which that House has sat next after any such Order is laid before it praying that the Order may be annulled, His Majesty in Council may annul the Order, and it shall thenceforth be void.'"

"In page 13, line, 14, at end, to insert the words 'nominated or.'"—(*Mr. Wyndham.*)

Amendments agreed to.

*MR. T. W. RUSSELL said this Amendment might seem a small matter, but it was an important one, because it affected the whole administration of the Act. He was not quite sure that they had gained anything by inserting the Lord Lieutenant instead of the Judicial Commissioner. It was of the greatest importance that the new Estates Commission should not be packed by the creatures of any one. He begged to move.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 13, line 29, after the word, 'may' to insert the words 'after consultation with the Land Commission and.'"—(*Mr. T. W. Russell.*)

MR. WYNDHAM accepted the Amendment.

Amendment agreed to.

Amendments proposed to the Bill—

"In page 13, line 29, to leave out from the word 'may' to the word 'such,' in line 30, and to insert the word 'nominate.'"

"In page 13, line 30, after the word 'the,' to insert the word 'land.'" "In page 13, line 30, at end to insert the words 'with the consent of the Treasury as to number and remuneration.'"—(*Mr. Wyndham.*)

Amendments agreed to.

On Sub-section 9—

"Sales of estates to the Estate Commissioners and sales by those Commissioners to tenants and others may be negotiated and completed by any agents, solicitors, or other persons approved by the Estates Commissioners at a fixed price or percentage, according to a scale to be settled by the Estates Commissioners with the assent of the Treasury, and such price or percentage shall be paid as part of the expenses of the Land Commission."

SIR W. HART DYKE (Kent, Dartford) moved to leave out the words "and completed by any agents, solicitors, or other persons approved by the Estates Commissioners," and to insert "by any agents or solicitors nominated with the approval of the Estates Commissioners by the vendors, or, in the absence of such nomination, by persons approved by the Commission."

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 13, line 38, to leave out the words 'and completed by any agents, solicitors, or other persons,' and insert the words 'by any land agent or solicitor nominated by the landlord and.'"—(*Sir W. Hart Dyke.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Bill."

MR. WYNDHAM said it seemed to him that the object of the Amendment was merely to call attention to the fact that the land agents were in many cases the proper persons to be employed. He should accept the Amendment because he believed the agents were probably the best persons, having full knowledge, to be employed; but the Government must reserve the right not to select them if necessary.

MR. T. W. RUSSELL said he had no objection to the land agents being compensated, provided that they were not to get anything out of the tenants' pockets. He should vote against anything of the kind. But the agents did not stand alone; there were the land clerks, and similar results would follow in their case, because they would be thrown out of employment as well as the agents.

MR. DILLON said if they could be quite assured that this compensation to the agents would conclude the whole business, he, for one, would not raise any objection, but certainly not out of the funds of the Bill. No doubt many of these agents had lost considerably by the Act, some of them having in the past received as much as 5 per cent. on rents of thousands a year. He did not think that if the agents were reappointed in connection with the settlement of the estate that would be any great advantage, as there were other persons equally qualified to effect the sales. He did not think that people who had been receiving such large incomes would be anxious to hasten the sales of land. Of course he did not blame the agents for that, and he made no charge against them, but it was only human nature that they should feel the seriousness of the change in their position. He hoped that this would be the last proposal of the kind, and that if the House agreed to this Amendment it ought to be regarded as a settlement so far as land agents were concerned.

SIR WILLIAM HART DYKE said he did not intend to propose the other Amendment upon this subject.

MR. WYNDHAM said that with regard to the remarks that had fallen from the hon. Member for South Tyrone and the hon. Member for East Mayo respecting the agents, he might say that there was no intention to extend the matter of compensation after this. It was not for the Government to effect it, but, having ascertained that it was agreed to by all parties, the Government had no objection to the Amendment, and on the ground that it would terminate the matter, he had accepted it.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND (Clare, E.) had no desire to say anything with regard to the landlords or the agents on that occasion, but he certainly thought that the landlords would be wanting in gratitude if they did not compensate men who had served them so well and zealously and had undertaken duties which were very trying and, he could not avoid adding, unpleasant. Indeed he considered that the land agents were more in trouble in Ireland than the landlords themselves, and he hoped if the Amendment were to be accepted it would bring to an end all further obligations in the same direction. He might say that in common justice the landlords ought to do something for their agents who had worked for them in defiance of all laws—human and divine. But he would only assent to it on the condition that it could not come out of any of the money for the free grant and sale.

MR. FIELD (Dublin, St, Patrick) said he would like to say something on behalf of the clerks who had worked and assisted the land agents in this matter.

*THE SPEAKER ruled that that point was not then before the House.

*MR. JORDAN (Fermanagh, S.) did not think that they should re-endow the agents, and he for one should not support the Amendment if any compensation were to be given out of the bonus or out of the funds required for purchasing the land. This was really a private matter. The agents had been paid their salaries and commissions for their work in connection with the collection of rent, and have been paid by and for the job for many years, and he saw no reason for any compensation being given to them nor to their clerks.

*SIR JOHN ROLLESTON (Leicester) agreed with the Member for South Tyrone that the land clerks should be compensated, and he was glad to say that the land agents had already agreed to do this. Land agents had in their time to perform many difficult and delicate duties. The landlords of Ireland lived in every part of the world. The agents had performed the duties of the landlords—who were only occasionally resident in Ireland—on the Bench and on the Councils they had performed their duties satisfactorily. They had assisted in establishing creameries and light railways. He therefore supported the Amendment, and hoped that the land agents might receive some consideration in the final settlement, as they most of all could speed the happy and rapid progress which it was desired the policy of the Measure should make.

MR. ROCHE (Galway, E.) said the agents had caused much of the trouble in Ireland, and in the County of Galway some of the agents were at that moment serving notices upon the tenants so as to lead up to their eviction.

*MR. SPEAKER said that was a matter which had nothing to do with the Amendment before the House. They could not discuss the mode of conducting the business of every landed proprietor on that question.

MR. SLOAN (Belfast, S.) said there was one thing he should like to discuss—namely, the position of the agents' clerks.

*MR. SPEAKER: That does not arise now.

Question put, and negatived.

Question, "That those words be there inserted in the Bill," put, and agreed to.

Amendments proposed to the Bill.

"In page 14, line 2, after the word 'Lieutenant,' to insert the words, 'and after consultation with the President of the Incorporated Law Society of Ireland.'"

"In page 14, line 14, after the word 'and,' to insert the words, 'those reports and all rules under the last preceding sub-section.'"—(*Mr. Wyndham.*)

Amendments agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill.

"In page 15, line 6, at end, to insert the words, 'In this sub-section the expression "the annual income," shall include the annual amount payable in respect of the premiums on any policy of insurance where those premiums are charged upon land.'"—(*Mr. Wyndham.*)

Amendment agreed to.

SIR LEWIS McIVER (Edinburgh, W.) in the same clause proposed to insert the words—"Where the purchase money thereof is sufficient to discharge all claims affecting the same and." He noticed that the Chief Secretary had an Amendment dealing with the same point by merely proposing to insert the words "for his own use," but he ventured to think that his own proposal would make the matter more clear. They both had the same object in view—*i.e.*, to prevent the owner of an insolvent estate running away with the arrears.

Amendment proposed to the Bill.

"In page 15, line 17, after the word 'estate,' to insert the words 'where the purchase money thereof is sufficient to discharge all claims affecting the same and.'"—(*Sir Lewis McIver.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted in the Bill."

MR. WYNDHAM said he was of opinion that his own words covered the object of the hon. Member. Of course, if he found they did not do so adequately, he would, in another place, adopt his suggestion.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Amendment proposed to the Bill.

"In page 15, line 22, after the word 'arrears,' to insert the words 'for his own use.'"—(*Mr. Wyndham.*)

Amendment agreed to.

MR. HEMPHILL (Tyrone, N.) in line 27, proposed to substitute "may" for "shall." He wished to leave it optional with the Land Commission to make investigation through their own officers.

Amendment proposed to the Bill.

"In page 15, line 27, to leave out the word 'shall' and insert the word 'may.'"—(*Mr. Hemphill.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'shall' stand part of the Bill."

MR. HERBERT ROBERTSON (Hackney, S.) opposed, and urged it was most desirable that the direction to the Commission to do certain things, without charge to the person entitled to the purchase money, should be obligatory.

MR. ATKINSON pointed out that "may" was more in harmony with the substance of the provision.

Question put, and negatived.

Question, "That the word 'may' be there inserted in the Bill" put, and agreed to.

MR. BUTCHER, in moving a proviso to Sub-section 2, said his object was to provide that where there had been no default or delay on the part of the encumbrancer or other person in establishing his title he should not come under the provision of Sub-section 2. Delay might be caused, for instance, by pressure of business in the Land Commission, and, as it would be due to no default on the part of the encumbrancer, there was no reason why he should be subjected to the penalty provided by the sub-section. He begged to move.

Amendment proposed to the Bill.

"In page 16, line 31, after the word 'advances,' to insert the words, 'provided that this sub-section shall not apply in any case where the Land Commission are satisfied that it is not owing to any act or default of such person that his title is not established, and the amount of his claim invested as aforesaid.'"—(*Mr. Butcher.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted in the Bill."

MR. T. M. HEALY said that while he had no particular objection to the proposal of the hon. and learned Member, he was rather nervous about it. If the money was not distributed quickly it would prevent purchase.

MR. ATKINSON said that nothing could be more injurious than the Amendment.

MR. BUTCHER: I moved it simply in the interests of fair play.

MR. ATKINSON said he would show how it would work. Generally speaking, encumbrancers in Ireland secured interest at the rate of 4½ or 5 per cent. They were absolutely interested in interposing every possible delay in the winding up of an estate, because their money was secure and they were receiving a higher rate of interest than they could possibly derive from any other investment. The object of this provision was to fix a date beyond which an encumbrancer would not get more than a certain rate of interest, so that it would be to the interest of everybody to expedite the winding up of the estate. If instead of having the rigid limit of twelve months the House inserted an elastic arrangement by which the high rate of interest should continue to accrue, unless the person interested was guilty of default, he really did not know when the winding up of an estate would be completed. In the meantime, the encumbrancer would be eating into the residue, because when the purchase money was invested it would bring in at most 3½ per cent., whereas interest would be running all that time at 4½ per cent.

SIR LEWIS MCIVER said the hon. and learned Member had not met the question in the least. The Amendment was designed to meet the case of a man who had not been guilty of dilatory action, and who was not in default, but the hon. and learned Member had dealt only with the case of a man in default. Where the delay was not the fault of the encumbrancer himself there was no reason why he should be robbed of the interest to which he was entitled under his deed.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. BUTCHER moved to omit Subsection 3. He had no objection to an encumbrancer being deprived of his interest if he was guilty of delay, but generally the encumbrancer had a covenant with the landlord for the payment of his interest, and he desired to know whether the sub-section would deprive him of that? If he still had the right to enforce his claim against the landlord the provision would be ineffective. The Chief Secretary should ensure that the mortgagee, if guilty of default, would lose his interest both out of the purchase money and also under his covenant, otherwise he would have no incentive to take steps to prove his title at all.

Amendment proposed to the Bill.

"In page 16, line 34, to leave out Subsection (3)."—(*Mr. Butcher.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Bill."

MR. T. M. HEALY did not think there was much danger in the sense pointed out by the hon. and learned Member, but he was afraid that if these penalties were enforced landlords would at once withdraw their estates from sale. As far as he could see there was nothing in the Bill to prevent that being done. That was a very real danger; the hopes of a large body of tenants might be disappointed, and he put it to the Chief Secretary that there was some necessity for providing in some part of the Bill that a landlord having once put his estate into the process of purchase contemplated by the Act should be unable to withdraw it.

MR. ATKINSON pointed out that the possibility of these penalties being imposed arose only after the sale. He agreed that if an encumbrancer was guilty of delay he should lose his interest both out of the purchase money and also under his covenant, and if the hon. and learned Member would withdraw his Amendment he would consider the matter, and, if necessary, have an Amendment inserted in another place.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

SIR LEWIS McIVER said the object of the Amendment he was about to move was to make it clear that in future the word "agreement" would include proposals made to the Land Judge and accepted by him. That was the case under the Act of 1896, and he thought it should be so in the present Bill.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 17, lines 1 and 2, to leave out the words 'shall in the case of agreements entered into,' and insert the word 'sanctioned.'"—(*Sir Lewis McIver.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Bill.

MR. WYNDHAM did not think there was any substance in the point.

MR. ATKINSON said that no advances could be made until an agreement had been entered into between landlord and tenant, and Section 40 of the Act of 1896, to which the hon. Member referred, provided that an offer of the Land Judge to the tenant should be an agreement in order that the machinery of the Land Purchase Acts might apply. Where the hon. Member made a mistake was in supposing that this Bill enabled the Land Judge to sell directly where he could not sell before. It did nothing of the kind. All it did was to enable the Land Judge to sell an estate in his Court to the Land Commission, not to the tenants.

MR. WYNDHAM said he thought the Bill covered the point the hon. Member had in mind, but, if the hon. Member would see him in the course of the next few days and explain the matter more fully, if it was not met by the Bill he would see that it was dealt with in another place.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn—

Amendment proposed to the Bill.

"In page 18, line 41, after the word 'cent.' to insert the words 'per annum.'"—(*Mr. Wyndham.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 19, line 31, to leave out the word 'interest,' and insert the word 'dividends.'"—(*Mr. Wyndham.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 19, line 38, after the word 'advances,' to insert the words 'to them.'"—(*Mr. Wyndham.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 19, line 39, to leave out the word 'interest,' and insert the word 'dividends.'"—(*Mr. Wyndham.*)

Amendment agreed to.

On Clause 38.

*MR. T. W. RUSSELL moved the omission of the clause. He said he desired to elicit information, and also to object to the source from which this grant was drawn. When the Irish Development Bill was introduced constitutional objections were raised, but many Members, believing the Chief Secretary had great objects in view, were willing to sacrifice their opinions on the matter. He was bound to say, however, that the Chief Secretary had placed in the hands of those who objected to this method of procedure a most tremendous weapon. He had demonstrated that the Fund would provide Dublin Castle with a purse for the perpetration of every job the Irish Government chose to allow, and the very first use made of it—this grant of £5,000 to Trinity College as hush money—was a job of the first magnitude. If Trinity College chose to make herself a pensioner of the British Government there was nothing more to be said from that standpoint. Trinity College had a great history, and he wished her to have a great future, but that future would not be secured by proceedings of this kind. He wished to know how the money was to be applied, and what it would do for either middlemen or tenants. In County Armagh Trinity College held the superior interest in an estate, the landlord was the middleman, and there were a considerable number of tenants.

Under the Bill the middleman would undoubtedly be able to sell. What would happen? The middleman would claim to exercise his right to sell, and the superior interests of Trinity College would have to be dealt with. So far as he understood the Bill they would have to be dealt with in one of two ways: either the middleman and the College must come together and agree, or the Land Commission must arbitrate and decide the value of the superior interests. Why was it to be assumed that Trinity College would lose by that transaction any more than the holder of any other superior interest? Trinity College was able to make its own bargain and defend its own rights. If the owner of the superior interest could not agree the matter could be arbitrated and decided like any other head-rent. Why should Trinity College be differentiated? The answer would be that Trinity College was a great national institution and ought not to be hampered in its work by any legislation for which the Government was responsible. What had been the course of procedure in regard to the redemption of head-rents in the past? Up to twenty-five years purchase had been paid for those head-rents. Was it asserted that if Trinity College got twenty-five years purchase it would be the loser? If so, it could only be the loser by the fact that those rents were unconscionable rents, which had never been touched by the Land Courts. If Trinity College lost it could only be by the fact that she had gained over and above all other landlords in Ireland. Who was to benefit by this £5,000 and how was it to be applied? Did the Government know of any arrangement by which the grant of this £5,00) was to be taken into account in fixing the rights of the middlemen? He wanted to know whether any of this £5,000 was to go towards enabling the middlemen to sell. How could they know that this £5,000 was not going to be locked up until it reached £50,000, and then a raid might be made upon it for some other object. He repeated his objection to the source from which this money was to be taken. When this question was discussed in Committee he said that if Trinity College lost by this Bill she ought to be recouped in an educational settlement that would take all creeds into consideration. With the national schools all over the country in an insanitary state—with earthen floors, windows out, and no sanitary requirements to many of them, it was a very tall order to take £5,000 out of the development grant at two days notice, every single shilling of which could have been used for a good purpose. It was a very large order to give this sum of money to the richest educational institution in the country, which, instead of helping the Government to settle this educational difficulty, had done everything in its power to retard it. He hoped the right hon. Gentleman would let in a little more light upon this "job" in favour of the richest educational institution in the country. He begged to move.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 20, line 35, to leave out Clause 38."—(*Mr. T. W. Russell.*)

Question proposed, "That the words of Clause 38 to the word 'the,' in line 36, stand part of the Bill."

MR. DILLON said that while it was perfectly true that the Irish Members were willing to agree that a portion of that grant should be taken to aid a land purchase scheme, they had no notion of it being devoted to such purposes as this. The protest raised by the hon. Member for Louth and the chairman of the Party against this money being allocated for any purpose except promoting Irish land purchase, was for the very reason that it might not be used for a purpose like this. He thought it was most irregular, and improper, and out of order to take a portion of this money, not yet appropriated by Parliament, by a clause in this Bill, and apply it to the purpose now proposed. He did not wish to prolong this debate because he recognised that it was idle for them to stop this "job." It was a most scandalous "job." There were only two points in connection with it upon which he felt bound to state his view. The only reason given in justification for this extraordinary proposal by the Chief Secretary was that it was for the benefit and advanof the 10,000 holders who were tenants under the middlemen of Trinity College, and that it would enable them to purchase. It would have no effect whatever in enabling them to purchase, because Trinity College had no power to fix the price of its own head-rents. Therefore, the middlemen would not be in a bit better position to sell, and they would not be encouraged to sell by this grant. If that were so, then this money was being obtained under false pretences, because it had been asked for in order to help the tenants to buy, and it would not help them in the least degree. If the right hon. Gentleman would put into the clause a prohibition, directing the Estates Commissioners to take into consideration this £5,000 when estimating the rents of Trinity College, that would remove a great deal of his opposition to this proposal. It was merely a pretext to use the middleman as a means of obtaining £5,000, which would probably be devoted to a totally different purpose, and would not have an atom of effect in relieving the middlemen. This, in reality, was a pure and simple grab to get a grant to indemnify the College against a supposed loss. This grant was recommended by the Chief Secretary and by the hon. Member for Trinity College when they spoke of this College as a great national institution, which enjoyed the respect of all Irishmen and of which all Irishmen were proud. He absolutely denied that. It was not a national institution, and it did not enjoy the respect of the masses of the Irish people and they were not proud of it. It was an institution which had confined its great advantages to a narrow and limited section of the population, and which, throughout its long career, had been associated with ascendancy in Ireland. It was really a fortress of bigotry, and, to its disgrace be it said, that to this hour it was the chief barrier which stood between the Irish people and the advantages to be obtained by education. They sought to deny to the mass of the people of Ireland those advantages which they offered to a small section. How could they respect an institution of that kind and call it national. He agreed that it had produced a great many distinguished men, but not long ago it sent an hon. Member to this House pledged to resign his seat rather than grant a Catholic University to Ireland. Therefore he was not proud of Trinity College, and, if it persisted in this policy of narrow bigotry, he trusted the day was not far distant when the walls of bigotry erected round this institution would be torn down, and its revenues devoted to the national benefit.

Mr. WYNDHAM said that time did not permit him to develop the argument he put before the Committee upon this question if they were to get through the Report stage that afternoon. They could not devote much time to this question although some little time was due to the Amendment which had been moved by the hon. Member for South Tyrone. The speech which they had just listened to seemed to raise two main points. The first was why they differentiated at all in respect of Trinity College, and the second was supposing they were right in differentiating, why did they take the money out of the Irish development grant. They differentiated in favour of Trinity College because in the first place it held a statutory position in the past and in consequence had not been a free agent in managing its own financial affairs. There was another point which he would pass over merely by saying that his opinion as to the position held by Trinity College did not coincide with the opinion which had just been given by the hon. Member for East Mayo. He would pass by that point because he wished to avoid controversy. As to preferential treatment they had to consider the peculiarity of tenure under Trinity College, and three or four years hence they might discover impediments to purchase which would have to be dealt with. He thought that such a precaution by way of an insurance fund would conduce to purchase and help the 9,000 or 10,000 holders under Trinity College. Although in his opinion it might not be proper to say that they must take into account this money he did think the fact that Trinity would not lose in consequence of any decision was likely materially to accelerate these proceedings and carry them through successfully. He held quite distinctly that the addition of this grant would assist the purchase of their holdings by these 9,000 or 10,000 holders of the soil who were at the bottom of this complicated system of tenure. Now he came to the second branch of his argument, namely, why had they had recourse to the Irish development grant? If he could have had recourse to money voted by Parliament he should have preferred it, but he could not. The financial arrangements of this Bill must be taken as one. He would submit to the hon. Member in the first place that originally they all hoped and believed that the equivalent grant to Ireland would be £150,000, and it was only by making many representations that the Treasury granted £185,000. In the second place it was urged by some of the critics sitting for English constituencies that if they were to have land purchase this education equivalent should go into the land purchase account. He had got this equivalent grant, but he admitted that he had not been uniformly successful. It was not, however, in his power to stand out against those representations. That being so he had no other course but to take the money from the Irish development grant.

MR. T. M. HEALY claimed that in this matter they ought to have the support of Scotch Members. While his opinions had undergone no change he was very sorry that time did not allow him to put on the paper an Amendment which he had drawn, and without which provision this clause would have no effect and not one shilling would ever go into the pockets of Trinity College. The conditions were so complicated, and the middlemen would be so reluctant, that they would infinitely prefer the present conditions. He asked the Government to inquire into the matter during the autumn, and he suggested that after some two years or so the Government might issue a Commission to inquire and report as to the best means of investing the lands in the occupying tenants.

MR. WYNDHAM: I shall be very glad to consider that suggestion.

MR. BLAKE (Longford, S.) pointed out that special circumstances were created by this Act of Parliament which had been defended upon different grounds. It was said that this proposal was necessary to enable these tenants to obtain the benefits of land purchase, but unless in fixing the value of the superior interests this grant was taken into account those benefits would not accrue. In granting this £5,000 a year it should be made clear that in determining the value this grant should be taken into account and it should not be left to probabilities or conjectures. The object for which the money was claimed by the Chief Secretary should be secured in the Bill itself. It was important that this grant should be secured for Irish purposes for all time, and it was not right or proper that the disposition of it should be left to the Government of the day or that it should be disposed of in any other way than in a satisfactory constitutional manner. The form had to be altered because the grant was to be made perpetual, but the hon. and learned Member for Waterford and himself had insisted that the substance should be retained in the same form, and that only after debate in the House should the money be applied.

MR. T. P. O'CONNOR (Liverpool, Scotland) thought the Government ought to give some answer to the points which had been raised. He believed the right hon. Gentleman had the same object in view as they had. He had a strong objection to Trinity College being placed in a different position to other institutions. The Chief Secretary said that Trinity College was not going to make a penny by this proposal, and that it was only intended to secure Trinity College from loss. Would the right hon. Gentleman make good his own words and insert a proviso that the money should be devoted only to facilitating land purchase in Ireland in order to give these 10,000 tenants the advantage of it? The only difference between them was that they did not think the words of the Clause fulfilled that intention.

Question put, and agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 20, line 35, at beginning, to insert the words, 'Subject to the provision of the last preceding section.'"—(*Mr. Wyndham*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 21, line 19, to leave out the words 'of seventy thousand pounds mentioned in,' and insert the words 'payable under.'"—(*Mr. Wyndham.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 21, line 23, after the word 'grant' to insert the words 'substituted for the grant.'"—(*Mr. Wyndham.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 22, line 30, after the words 'per cent.,' to insert the words 'per annum.'"—(*Mr. Wyndham.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 22, line 31, after the words 'per cent.,' to insert the words 'per annum.'"—(*Mr. Wyndham.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 23, line 7, at end, to insert the words '(2) The purchase annuity shall be paid until the whole of the advance in respect of which it is payable is ascertained in manner prescribed by the Treasury to have been repaid."—(*Mr. Wyndham.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted in the Bill."

MR. DILLON asked whether the right hon. Gentleman would give an assurance that the rules for carrying out the Amendment would be laid before Parliament. On a previous occasion they had great difficulty in getting an account of what the Treasury based its proceedings on.

MR. WYNDHAM said he could give that assurance.

Question put, and agreed to —

Amendment proposed to the Bill.

"In page 23, line 19, at end, to add, the words '(3) Any rules under this section shall, as soon as may be after they are made, be laid before both Houses of Parliament.'"—(*Mr. Wyndham.*)

Amendment agreed to.

*MR. BUTCHER moved as an Amendment to Clause 47 that the vendor of an estate should pay out of the bonus money an amount not exceeding 3 per cent. of the purchase money in discharge of the costs incidental to the sale. In common with some others he on a former occasion in connection with the matter of the bonus used the term "bribe," which was not grateful to the ears of the Chief Secretary. He suggested that most Courts would regard money given to a vendor to induce him to sell as a bribe. He did not intend to repeat the speech which he made formerly. [A NATIONALIST MEMBER "Hear, hear."] He was glad this statement received the approval of hon. Gentlemen opposite, and he hoped they would show their gratitude by supporting the Amendment, which was a most reasonable one. He said at once that he recognised that there were objections to taking the whole of the bonus and putting it into the purchase money, and, therefore, he did not intend to move the second part of the Amendment standing in his name, which proposed that the balance of the bonus ought to be treated as part of the purchase money. He intended to confine himself entirely to the first part of the Amendment which proposed that costs up to a certain point should be paid out of the bonus. In making his proposal he was only carrying out the expressed intentions of the Government themselves. He found those intentions expressed most clearly in the original draft of the bill in Clause 43 Sub-section (1) which was as follows—

"For the purpose of aiding the sale of estates under this Act, and making contributions towards the expenses incidental to the redemption of superior and intervening interests, the investigation of titles, the distribution of purchase money and other like matters, the Land Commission may, in the prescribed manner and at the prescribed time, out of advances by the National Debt Commissioners from the said fund, pay to the vendor of each estate sold a percentage determined according to the scale set forth in the First Schedule to this Act."

MR. JOHN REDMOND: The hon. Gentleman agreed with my Amendment to leave these words out.

*MR. BUTCHER said that was not so. The the sub-section expressed the purpose which the Government thought justified the bonus. It was for the purpose of aiding sales, and he desired to give effect to that intention. He fully admitted that under the Bill as originally drafted their intentions might have been frustrated, because the the words of Clause 43 were not sufficiently strong to ear-mark the bonus for the purpose of paying these costs. He proposed to ear-mark it and devote it to the purpose expressed in the Government's own words. He believed that probably ninety-nine out of every 100 hon. Members who read the Bill were under the impression at the time of the Second Reading that the costs would be paid in that manner, and he should say that a very much larger proportion of the outside public were under that belief. He justified this proposal not merely on the ground that it carried out the intention of the Government, but also on the ground that it was fair, desirable, and reasonable in itself. Would not every prudent landlord who sold under the Bill apply a portion of the bonus towards paying the costs? Would not he apply a sum not exceeding 3 per cent. to that purpose, and leave the purchase money for the benefit of the estate? His desire was to make the imprudent landlord do what the prudent landlord would do. They were told that this bonus was a free gift from the State to the landlord, and that they ought not to hamper him with regard to the application of the money. They should remember when they talked of a free gift that the landlord was part owner, and that there were others who ought to benefit by the sale of the estate. He asked hon. Members to deal fairly between all the different persons interested. He thought it would be right to say that 3 per cent. of the bonus should be applied to the payment of costs, leaving the landlord the other 9 per cent. He was speaking in the interest of what he thought was fair on both sides. He was told that unless they gave the tenant for life the whole of the 12 per cent. they did not offer him sufficient inducement to sell. He believed if a landlord got, as hon. Gentlemen opposite desired him to get, a fair price for his land, and if in addition to that he got 9 per cent. of the total bonus money for his own use, that ought to operate very fairly. He asked the Chief Secretary to accept the Amendment in the interest of fair play all round. He begged to move.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 24, line 6, at end, to insert the words '(3) The vendor shall, out of the percentage payable to him under this section, pay and discharge such of the costs of and incidental to the sale as would but for this provision be payable out of the purchase money of the estate. Provided that the amount of the costs so payable shall not exceed 3 per cent. on the amount of the purchase money of the estate.'"—(*Mr. Butcher.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted in the Bill."

MR. WYNDHAM said he was really unable to accept the Amendment. He had lately endeavoured to convince his hon. and learned friend that this was an Amendment that could not be accepted. He did not like to develop his argument at any length against it now, but he would point out that while many people looked at the bonus from the point of view of the financial position of the landlord, he himself looked at it also from the point of view of the remainder-man. The hon. Member for York said he wished to be fair to all parties. He never knew in which capacity the hon. Member was coming forward — whether in the interest of the landlord, the encumbrancer, or the remainder-man. The bonus was applied where help was most needed, to enable the vendor to sell, and he must maintain his position in this matter.

Question put, and negatived.

Amendments proposed to the Bill—

"In page 24, line 9, to leave out the words 'scale of percentages,' and insert the word 'percentage.'

"In page 24, line 12, to leave out the word 'scale,' and insert the word 'percentage.'"

"In page 24, line 17, at end, to insert the words 'or to any estate sold by a mortgagee in possession.'"—(*Mr. Wyndham.*)

Amendments agreed to.

MR. T. M. HEALY moved an Amendment that Clause 47, should not apply to any estate as to which an absolute order for sale was made in the Land Judge's Court prior to 1st January, 1901, where such order, after the passing of this Act, had been discharged. He did not know whether the Chief Secretary was cognisant of the fact that the Land Judge's Court could refuse to give any bonus on a sale in the Land Registry Court. The only result of that refusal would be that every sensible man would withdraw his case from the Land Registry Court in order to get the bonus, and unless there was a provision that, on being withdrawn, he would get no bonus, they would have the Registry Court high and dry and all the work thrown on the Estates Commissioners. It seemed to him that to provide that a landlord should get any bonus under these conditions was simply to invite him to take his estate out of the Registry Court. His idea was that he should not be allowed to take out the estate, and that if he did he should get no bonus. There should be no inducement to take an estate out. It appeared to him that, unless some Amendment like this was arrived at, there was extraordinary risk of the land shark and the speculator coming forward again in the Land Judge's Court. He saw nothing to prevent wealthy financiers like Rothschild and Pierpont Morgan entering into transactions by which they would be able to get a bonus of 12 per cent., while at the same time hanging up estates interminably and cheating the tenants out of their rights. He did not know that his Amendment was the most perfect device that could be adopted to prevent this fraud, but something was wanted to prevent the fraud being perpetrated.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 24, line 17, at the end, to insert the words 'nor to any estate as to which an absolute order for sale was made in the Land Judge's Court prior to the 1st of January 1901, where such order after the passing of this Act has been discharged. "Estate" for the purpose of this sub-Section shall include any portion of an estate.'"—(*Mr. T. M. Healy.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted in the Bill."

MR. WYNDHAM said he had listened with attention and interest to the speech of the hon. and learned Member. This Amendment had only appeared on the Paper this morning, and, owing to the early hour at which the House met, he had not been able to give to it the full consideration which he thought it demanded. He would only make two observations. There would not be many of the cases which the hon. and learned Member contemplated. He could not suppose that the Judge would permit what was indicated.

MR. T. M. HEALY said the Judge would allow it.

MR. WYNDHAM said the hon. and learned Member had put forward the argument that the intention of the Bill might be defeated by certain financial operations. He hoped the hon. and learned Member would be satisfied if he said that he would consider the point raised by him. He was quite sure that if the danger referred to existed it ought to be stopped.

MR. T. M. HEALY said he could not expect the right hon. Gentleman to do more at present than promise to consider the point, seeing that only a brief period had elapsed since the Amendment was put on the Paper.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

*MR. DUKE (Plymouth) moved an Amendment of Clause 50 for the purpose of enlarging the powers of trustees as to the investment of purchase money. He said the object of the Amendment was to relax something of the stringency under the provisions in the Bill upon the investment of the very vast sums of money which were going to be invested under the operation of this Act. The subject was so large and so closely bound up with the economic well being of Ireland that it was difficult even to attempt to open it on a day when time pressed so much, and when matters much more closely connected with the main objects of the Bill had to be dealt with. But he wished to point out two facts. His right hon. friend would withdraw from the investment market in Ireland practically the whole of the land of Ireland. It would not be available to investors in the ordinary sense.

Further, there would be brought into Ireland from the Exchequer of the United Kingdom some hundred millions of money which ultimately would be repaid to the Exchequer. Those were two facts which could not fail to force any observer to the conclusion that the economic future of Ireland was very much bound up with the manner in which the provision for the investment of the money received for the sale of land was dealt with by this Bill or some future measure. He did not profess to believe that the little list of investments suggested by him would deal fully with the matter, or make a final settlement. What had been felt in regard to the question of the investments of people who were to be the resident gentry in Ireland was, that the Bill as it stood put these investments under the direction of a judicial body, or a judicial person, whose views respecting investments were so strict as to be entirely separated from the views of ordinary commercial persons. That was regarded by those interested in the matter as something of an alarming prospect. He should be glad if the Chief Secretary could tell the House that this subject would receive consideration, with the view of ascertaining whether it was not necessary, having regard to the wholesale change in the conditions of the life of persons holding capital in Ireland, to reconsider the restrictions which the Bill placed on trust investments. These restrictions were proper enough in a country like England, where, fortunately, trust investments were more plentiful than in Ireland, but in Ireland they were felt, as he was told, to operate with undue stringency. He begged to move.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 24, line 37, after the word 'in,' to insert the words, '(a) bonds, debentures, or mortgages secured upon rates or taxes levied under the authority of any Act of Parliament or Provisional Order by any municipal corporation or other local authority in the United Kingdom which shall be authorised to borrow on such security; (b) ground rents arising out of hereditaments in the United Kingdom and not exceeding in amount one-fourth part of the annual value at a rack rent of the premises out of which such ground rents issue; (c) debentures or mortgages of railway companies in the United Kingdom incorporated by Act of Parliament; (d) stocks or shares of any tramway or light railway interest upon which is guaranteed from or charged upon rates under the Tramways (Ireland) Acts; (e) bonds, debentures, or mortgages secured upon any investments in which trustees are authorised by this or any other Act to invest trust funds; (f) debentures or fully paid shares or stocks of any railway or commercial or industrial company in the United Kingdom, provided that the sufficiency of such investment to realise the sum invested therein upon the death of the tenant for life or the termination of the trust shall be secured to the satisfaction of the public trustee under this Act; or (g).'"—(*Mr. Duke.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted in the Bill."

MR. WYNDHAM said his hon. and learned friend was really proposing to do what the Government sought to do in another way. In one sense the clause as it stood was wider than the Amendment. He had gone into this matter very closely, and had conferred with the Lord Chancellor of Ireland, taking into account the general law of trusts. Clause 51 represented the clear judgment of the Government on this question, and he did not think that it excluded the investments which his hon. and learned friend would like to see included. He could not hold out any hope that that decision would be amplified on the present occasion. Many of the investments indicated by his hon. and learned friend would be taken in under the clause.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Amendments proposed to the Bill—

"In page 26, line 28, to leave out the words 'March last before the passing of this Act,' and insert the words 'January in the year nineteen hundred and one.'"

"In page 27, line 1, after the word 'holding,' to insert the words 'or part thereof.'"—(*Mr. Wyndham.*)

Amendments agreed to.

(For Amendments moved by Mr. Wyndham on Clause 52 see Votes.)

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 27, line 9, at end, to add the words '(3) Nothing in this section shall affect any estate as to which a request by the Land Judge issued to the Land Commission under said Section 40 prior to the passing of this Act.'"—(*Mr. T. M. Healy.*)

MR. WYNDHAM said he would accept this.

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 27, line 39, after the word 'sum,' to insert the words 'or sums.'"—(*Mr. Wyndham.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 27, line 39, after the word 'exceeding,' to insert the words 'in the aggregate.'"—(*Mr. Wyndham.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 27, line 39, after the word 'the,' to insert the words 'amount of the.'"—(*Mr. Wyndham.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 27, line 40, after the word 'annuity,' to insert the word 'payable.'" — (*Mr. Wyndham.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 27, line 40, after the word 'part,' to insert the words 'upon the making of the advance.'"—(*Mr. Wyndham.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 27, line 41, to leave out the word 'for,' and insert the words 'by which the holding is charged with.'"—(*Mr. Wyndham.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 27, line 42, at end, to insert the words 'where part of a holding is mortgaged or charged the Land Commission shall, for the purpose of this enactment, estimate the amount of the purchase annuity payable in respect of that part.'"—(*Mr. Wyndham.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 28, line 1, after the word 'holding' to insert the words 'other than a charge under any Public Works Acts.'"—(*Mr. Wyndham.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 28, line 12, after the word 'any' to insert the words 'and any charge under any Public Works Act.'"—(*Mr. Wyndham.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 28, line 36, to leave out the word 'fails,' and insert the words 'wilfully neglects.'"—(*Mr. T. M. Healy.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 28, line 37, to leave out the word 'ten,' and insert the word 'two.'"—*Mr. Wyndham.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 28, line 40, at end, to add the words 'and such rules shall provide a scale of remuneration to be paid by the Land Commission to officers furnishing information under Sub-sections two and three of this section.'"—(*Mr. T. M. Healy.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 29, line 28, after the word 'tenant,' to insert the words 'provided that no arrears shall be recoverable where the tenant has paid a sum equivalent to a year's rent within the year immediately preceding such offer.'"—(*Mr. T. M. Healy.*)

MR. T. M. HEALY said that the purpose of this Amendment was to provide against the tenant being really responsible for two years rent, the last year's rent and the "hanging-gate" rent.

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted in the Bill."

MR. WYNDHAM said he could not accept the Amendment or go farther than he had already gone.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 29, line 39, at end, to add the words 'Every such reference for reconsideration shall contain the reasons thereof, and a copy of such reasons shall be forwarded to the Treasury, and shall forthwith be published in the *Dublin Gazette.* The Land Commission shall include in their annual report to Parliament an explanation of any variation made by them in a report on such reconsideration.'"—(*Mr. T. M. Healy.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted in the Bill."

MR. WYNDHAM said he could not accept the Amendment. The Bill proposed an alternative plan, and he hoped the hon. and learned Member would not press this.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 30, line 10, at end, to add the words '(4) Subject to the provisions of this section, where a request has been issued by the Land Judge to the Land Commission, an order dismissing the petition for sale shall not be made until the offer in that section mentioned has been made and refused.'"—(*Mr. T. M. Healy.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted in the Bill."

MR. WYNDHAM said he would consider this subject before the Bill went to another place.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 31, line 35, at end, to insert the words '(3) This section shall not apply to any reversion or estate expectant on the determination of an estate tail or a base fee which is vested in the Crown.'"—(*Mr. Wyndham.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 32, line 15, after the word 'determined,' to insert the words 'after hearing the parties.'"—(*Mr. T. M. Healy.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted in the Bill."

MR. WYNDHAM said he would consider the point.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 32, line 15, to leave out the words 'Land Commission,' and insert the words "Judicial Commissioner.'"—(*Mr. Wyndham.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 33, line 9, after the word 'Acts,' to insert the words 'Provided that, in any case where no part of such guarantee deposit has been actually applied, in pursuance of the Land Purchase Acts, for five years, after the date that the holding in respect of which the same was retained was vested in the purchaser thereof, the Land Commission shall, on application, pay the same to the person entitled thereto.'"—(*Sir Lewis McIver.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted in the Bill."

MR. WYNDHAM said that he had investigated this question and had conferred with the Treasury on the matter, and he was not prepared to accept the Amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 33, line 32, to leave out from beginning to the word 'all,' in line 33."—(*Mr. Wyndham.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 33, line 37, to leave out the first words 'Act of,' and insert the words 'Landlord and Tenant (Ireland) Act.'" — (*Mr. Wyndham.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 33, line 37, to leave out the word 'Land.'"—(*Mr. Wyndham.*)

Amendment agreed to.

*MR. T. W. RUSSELL said that the sum and substance of the Solicitor-General's defence of the appointment of Mr. Fitzgerald was that he was in good physical condition. He strongly opposed the appointment of that gentleman who was to sit as a Judicial Commissioner with a single assessor, and that assessor appointed by himself, to hear appeals on fair rents. This was a most serious business and he proposed to divide upon it.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 37, line 15, to leave out Subsection 3."—(*Mr. T. W. Russell.*)

Question proposed—"That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Bill."

MR. T. M. HEALY said it was very unfair that the right hon. Gentleman should claim a single-handed Division at that hour in the afternoon.

MR. WYNDHAM said that it was impossible on the Report stage to alter the composition of the Commission. He fully defended the constitution of the Court in Committee.

Question put, and agreed to.

Mr. T. M. HEALY said that he thought this Amendment he now proposed was reasonable and that the Government ought to accept it. They should not for such work bring in raw hands.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 37, line 35, at end, to add the words 'having not less than five years' experience under the Land Commission.'"—(*Mr. T. M. Healy.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted in the Bill."

Mr. WYNDHAM hoped the hon. and learned Gentleman would not press his Amendment, which he could not possibly accept.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

*Mr. T. W. RUSSELL said he moved his Amendment in order to elicit some information as to what the position would be. In Committee they were told that the Assessors were to be Court valuers but the Court valuers were now appointed by Mr. Fitzgerald who sent them all over Ireland. They had better let Mr. Fitzgerald do the work alone. Personally he had not a bit of confidence in the way this work had been done in the past by Mr. Fitzgerald, and he knew that fair-rent valuers had been removed to the remotest parts of Ireland simply because they did not come up to the landlords' or the land agents' idea of what a fair rent was. If Mr. Fitzgerald was going to have the appointment of his assessor they had better leave out the assessor altogether. He wanted the assessor to be appointed by the Lord Lieutenant, in which event the assessor would be an independent man and would not be swayed by Mr. Fitzgerald or anybody else as to his views of a fair rent.

Mr. Wyndham.

Amendment proposed to the Bill.

"In page 38, line 5, after the word 'assessor,' to insert the words 'who shall be appointed by the Lord Lieutenant after consultation with the Land Commission.'"—(*Mr. T. W. Russell.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted in the Bill."

Mr. DILLON said that this was an exceptionally difficult portion of the Bill, and he had intended to relieve his soul upon it on Report. But after all what could they do at that hour of the afternoon? He recognised that nothing that they could do or say would get rid of Mr. Fitzgerald and his assessors. For good or evil they were now embodied in the Bill.

Mr. T. M. HEALY said that the understanding with the Government had both its conveniences and its inconveniences. This was one of the inconveniences.

Mr. WYNDHAM said that there was no understanding at all.

Mr. T. M. HEALY asked if there was not an understanding to get the Bill through at half-past five o'clock?

Mr. WYNDHAM said he wished to get the Report stage finished that day. In reply to the hon. Member for South Tyrone he pointed out that the hon. Member had overlooked Clause 86, which was part of the frame-work of the Bill. He could not possibly accept the Amendment.

*Mr. T. W. RUSSELL said that surely these assessors might be appointed by the Government themselves and not be left to Mr. Fitzgerald.

Mr. JOHN REDMOND said that so far as he knew there had been no agreement between the Government and these Benches, but there was a desire on the part of himself and his colleagues that the Report stage should be finished that evening.

Question put, and negatived.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 39, line 25, to leave out the word 'wages,' and insert the words 'average wages in the year.'"—(*Mr. Wyndham.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'wages' stand part of the Bill."

MR. O'SHEE (Waterford, N.) moved as an Amendment to the Amendment to insert after the word "year" the words "preceding the lodgment of the representation."

Amendment proposed to the proposed Amendment to the Bill—

"After the word 'year' to insert the words 'preceding the lodgment of the representation.'"—(*Mr. O'Shee.*)

Question put, and negatived.

Amendment, as amended, agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 40, line 15, after the word 'Acts,' to insert the words '1883 to 1896.'"—(*Mr. Wyndham.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 40, line 19, after the word 'in' to insert the words 'the said Act as amended by.'"—(*Mr. Wyndham.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 40, to leave out Clause 94."—(*Mr. Wyndham.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 40, line 39, after the word 'includes,' to insert the words 'Part Three of the Act of 1896.'"—(*Mr. Wyndham.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 41, line 2, at end, to insert the words 'The expression "the Land Law Acts," means the Land Law Acts as defined by the Act of 1896 and part one of that Act.'"—(*Mr. Wyndham.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 41, line 12, at end, to insert the words. 'The expression "land agent" means and includes receivers under the Courts or receivers under deed.'"—(*Sir John Rolleston.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 43, to leave out Schedule 1."—(*Mr. Wyndham.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 43, line 26, after the word 'three,' to insert the words 'Sub-sections three, four, five, and six of Section thirty-six.'"—(*Mr. Wyndham.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 43, line 28, at end, to insert the words '54 and 55 Vic. c. 71, The Labourers (Ireland) Act, 1891, Section three.'"—(*Mr. Wyndham.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 43, line 30, after the word 'five,' to insert the words 'save as regards agreements for purchase made before the passing of this Act.'"—(*Mr. Wyndham.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 43, line 32, after the word 'three,' to insert the words 'save as regards agreements for purchase made before the passing of this Act.'"—(*Mr. Wyndham.*)

Amendment agreed to.

MR. T. M. HEALY: Instead of moving the last Amendment, which stands in my name, I beg to congratulate the Chief Secretary on the genius, skill, and courage which he has shown in the conduct of this Bill.

MR. BUTCHER asked whether the Chief Secretary would have the Bill as amended reprinted before the Third Reading was taken.

MR. WYNDHAM: Yes, certainly.

Bill to be read the third time upon Tuesday next, and to be printed.

METROPOLITAN STREETS BILL.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

MR. CALDWELL (Lanarkshire, Mid) said there seemed to have been some misunderstanding with regard to the Bill. They were under the impression that what was intended to be dealt with under the Bill was the collection of money in the streets for charitable purposes. Some powers should be obtained whereby such collection should be prevented, as it was practically the same thing as begging. As he had pointed out on a previous occasion, this Bill was of a very limited character, but as he read it the measure was intended to go further. It did not deal with the point of street collections, but only with the question of regulating the traffic of horses, carts and carriages. They had expected that the Government would have availed themselves of other powers, as they might have done under the Act in Section 19, which related to the licensing of shoeblacks, and the exercise of similar callings. His object in intervening was not to find fault, but to point out that the Bill did not go far enough, and that they might have introduced a licensing clause such as no person was to publicly collect in the streets without getting an authority for the purpose. They should not allow any persons to go begging in the streets under the guise of a charitable purpose unless some one with authority controlled and looked after them. He was anxious that the Bill should go a little further, but if the Home Secretary could not see his way to act upon their suggestion, they would accept it as it was.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT (Mr. AKERS DOUGLAS, Kent, St. Augustine's) fully recognised the friendly attitude of the hon. Member towards the Bill, which had been introduced in consequence of remarks which had fallen from hon. Members on the other side of the House. At this time of the session it was only possible in meeting their demand to introduce a measure of small and uncontroversial character. This Bill met the demand, and it was thought that it would deal with the difficulty in a satisfactory manner. If it was found that there were not sufficient powers in it to deal with the questions raised by the hon. Member, and that they were serious, he would have to introduce a further Bill at a later date.

Bill reported, without Amendment; read the third time, and passed.

STATUTE LAW REVISION (SCOTLAND) BILL. [LORDS.]

[SECOND READING.]

Order of the day for the Second Reading read.

MR. CALDWELL said he thought this was a very large order. It would repeal a number of Scottish Acts of Parliament which had gone into desuetude. Of course a Bill of this magnitude would have to be very carefully considered, and no doubt there had been an enormous amount of labour bestowed upon it in its preparation. Labour of that kind must not be lost, but there was a great danger that in the course of repealing such an enormous number of statutes they would be repealing something which would have very serious consequences. This Bill had only been newly brought forward, and it was obvious that it could not yet have been carefully considered, and therefore, while there was practically nothing in the Second Reading, he thought on the Committee stage there might be a few Amendments. If the Lord Advocate looked to the bottom of page 3 he would find the words "strangers that sell merchandise in the realm and take nothing therefrom." Having regard to the present question of fiscal relations, perhaps that particular Scotch Act of Parliament might become useful. That was an Act passed in the year 1424, and they would therefore see that the English people were now coming forward to the stage at which the Scottish people arrived in 1424. He wanted the Lord Advocate to notice that while they agreed that the Bill must be read a second time they would think it necessary to go into it minutely on the Committee stage, and he trusted that an opportunity of so doing would then be afforded.

*THE LORD ADVOCATE (Mr. A. GRAHAM MURRAY, Buteshire) said he could not agree with the hon. Member's somewhat unparliamentary expression that this Bill was a big order. This Bill had not been at all hastily prepared. It had taken some three years time of very experienced persons, and it had been for some time before the country. Of course he recognised that it was a Bill that would take up some of the time of the House, and that without the consent of the House it could not possibly be passed, but he did not think he was going too far in saying that the hon. Member would not try to stop the Bill at a future stage unless he saw something wrong in it. If the hon. Member would promise to go through it during the long vacation, he might possibly do so with advantage, but the hon. Member doubtless had his own methods of enjoying his holidays, and it was improbable that they consisted of studying old Acts of Parliament. Therefore there was no ground for thinking that the Bill would be any better next year. More than ordinary precautions had been taken to sweep away nothing that could be of any service and there was the usual saving clause inserted. He hoped the hon. Member would not oppose the Second Reading.

SIR FREDERICK BANBURY (Camberwell, Peckham) appealed to the hon. Member to allow the Bill to go through the Second Reading, especially as, although he had listened to the remarks of the hon. Gentleman, he failed to find that he had brought forward any valid or sufficient reason for objecting.

MR. CALDWELL: I did not object.

SIR FREDERICK BANBURY said the speech of the hon. Gentleman seemed to have been made with a view of emphasising the fact that Scotland was a very superior country to England. He understood the hon. Gentleman to found his argument on the fact that England was only now in the position occupied by Scotland in 1424, therefore that Scotland was 680 years in advance of England, and he gathered that it was desirable in the view of the hon. Member that the Bill should be passed in order to enable England to reach the same degree of efficiency as that already obtained by Scotland. As his hon. friend did not object to the Bill he hoped that the House would consent to take the Second Reading.

Bill read a second time, and committed for Tuesday next.

INNKEEPERS' LIABILITY BILL.

MR. GALLOWAY (Manchester, S.W.) moved an Amendment, the effect of which he said was to extend the Bill to Ireland. It would be in the recollection of the House that when the measure was last under discussion the House decided that it could not extend to Scotland. In a Bill of this year Scotland had been dealt with, but they had no knowledge that the Government proposed to deal with the question in Ireland, and therefore there appeared to be a good reason why this Bill should be extended to Ireland.

MR. T. W. RUSSELL (Tyrone, S): No, no.

MR. GALLOWAY said the Bill in its present form was very different to that first printed. Since it was last under consideration they had put in a clause which enabled an appeal to be lodged at Quarter Sessions against a decision of the First Court. Whatever objections there might be to extending the Bill to Ireland without those appeals could not now be held.

MR. T. W. RUSSELL said that there were no inns in Ireland.

MR. GALLOWAY thought the definition of an innkeeper must be sought in the Act of Parliament. The Act of 1863 clearly defined that an inn should be a public house, and consequently an innkeeper would be the person keeping it. There could be no doubt that according to the Act of 1863 although in Ireland they had no licence in the same way as they had in England, they had innkeepers in that country, and this Bill would be practically as applicable in Ireland as it was in England.

Further Consideration, as amended (by the Standing Committee), deferred until Wednesday next.

In moving the adjournment of the House—

MR. ANSTRUTHER (St. Andrews Burghs) asked to be allowed to state for the convenience of hon. Members that the Chief Secretary had put down the Irish Votes for the business on Monday.

Adjourned at twenty-eight minutes before Six o'clock till Monday next.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Monday, 20th July, 1903.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

The LORD CHANCELLOR acquainted the House that the Clerk of the Parliaments had laid upon the Table the Certificate from the Examiners that the further Standing Orders applicable to the following Bill have been complied with:—Alexandra Park and Palace.

The same was ordered to lie on the Table.

City and South London Railway Bill; Romford and District Tramways Bill. Read 3^a, with the Amendments; further Amendments made; Bills passed, and returned to the Commons.

Newcastle-upon-Tyne Electric Supply Bill. Read 3^a, with the Amendments; a further Amendment made; Bill passed, and returned to the Commons.

Woolwich Borough Council Bill. Read 3a, with the Amendments, and passed, and returned to the Commons.

Metropolitan Streets Bill. Brought from the Commons.

Pier and Harbour Provisional Orders (No. 4) Bill. Returned from the Commons, with the Amendment agreed to.

Pier and Harbour Provisional Orders (No. 2) Bill; Pier and Harbour Provisional Orders (No. 3) Bill. Returned from the Commons, with the Amendments agreed to.

Lancashire and Yorkshire and London and North Western Railways (Steam Vessels) Bill. Reported from the Select Committee, with Amendments.

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 13) Bill. Moved, That the Order made on the 16th day of March last, "That no Provisional Order Confirmation Bill brought from the House of Commons shall be read a second time after the 18th day of June next," be dispensed with, and that the Bill be now read 2^a; agreed to; Bill read 2^a accordingly, and committed to a Committee of the Whole House to-morrow.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

TRADE REPORTS (ANNUAL SERIES).

No. 3034: Netherlands (Rotterdam); No. 3035: Italy (Lecce).

SOMALILAND.

Despatches relative to the operations of the Somaliland Field Force.

BOARD OF EDUCATION.

Syllabuses and lists of apparatus applicable to schools and classes other than elementary (from 1st August, 1903, to 31st July, 1904).

GOVERNMENT LABORATORY.

Report of the Principal Chemist, Government Laboratory, upon the work of the laboratory, for the year ended 31st March, 1903; with appendices.

Presented (by Command), and ordered to lie on the Table.

ARMY.

Further regulations relating to: 1. The Army Reserve; 2. The Militia.

COUNTY OFFICERS AND COURTS (IRELAND) ACT, 1877.

Account of receipts and payments under the Act during the year ended 31st March, 1903.

SUPREME COURT OF JUDICATURE.

Rules of the Supreme Court, July, 1903.

Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table.

INDIA AND THE SOUTH AFRICA GARRISON.

*THE MARQUESS OF RIPON, who had given notice "To ask His Majesty's Government whether it is proposed to place any portion of the cost of the troops in South Africa upon the revenues of India; and to move for any Papers relating to the subject," said: My Lords, on Friday morning last those who take an interest in Indian affairs were startled by an announcement that His Majesty's Government contemplated making a demand upon the Indian Government to pay a portion of the cost of certain troops who are to be kept

An Asterisk (*) at the commencement of a Speech indicates revision by the Member.

in South Africa, upon the ground that those troops would form a more available reserve for India than if they had been retained in this country. I said that those who were interested in matters of this kind were startled when they found this announcement in the new papers, and I think, my Lords, that it was very natural that that should be the case, because this proposal is one altogether inconsistent with the principles which have up to now guided the financial relations between India and this country. Hitherto it has been the rule that India should pay every sixpence of the cost, direct or indirect, of the troops in India, but beyond that payment I have never heard, I certainly have never known, of any attempt being made to cast upon the revenues of India a portion of the cost of those troops of His Majesty who might be available for purposes of reserves for that country. It has sometimes been argued that we were unduly hard upon India in some of the demands we made upon her in reference to the payment of her own garrison. Some persons have objected to the fact that she was made to pay for the cost of all the recruits that were required for the British Army in India, and also her due proportion of the pensions of those who had served in that country. But, my Lords, beyond that our demands have not hitherto gone, and I think that this new departure is one fraught with great danger to the financial condition of India.

There has been recently, as your Lordships know, a question between the Government of this country and the Government of India in respect to the payment of certain additional charges for the pay of British troops. Against that charge, at least to the full amount, Lord Curzon made a vigorous protest. I am sorry that the Papers in which these facts are brought forward have not been laid before this House, but they were moved for by a private Member in the House of Commons, and therefore, not having been presented to Parliament by Command they have not been laid before us. It will be seen that there was a strong feeling on the part of the Government of India that even that demand, at least to its full extent, could not be justified; but that demand, my Lords, whether it showed due consideration to the finances of India, or whether it did not, was a demand which we must admit fell within the principles that have hitherto guided the financial relations between the two countries. It stood altogether upon a different footing from the demand which is now made, because the present demand is one for the payment of a portion of the expenses of those troops which are to be stationed in South Africa on the ground that they constitute a more available reserve for India than if they had been stationed in this country. The total number of these troops is to be 25,000, and the total extra charge for them is to be £1,500,000.

THE LORD PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL (The Duke of DEVONSHIRE): No.

*THE MARQUESS OF RIPON: That was Mr. Brodrick's statement in the House of Commons. Well, my Lords, that is an entire abandonment of the principles which have hitherto been adopted. The charge hitherto, as I have said, has had reference solely to the troops that are in India. I am speaking, of course, of a time of peace. This proposes to place a charge, the exact amount of which we have not been told, upon Indian revenues for the purpose of troops available for reserves. The whole British Army is the reserve of the Army of India, and I cannot see, if such a demand has not been made before, how it can be brought forward on the present occasion with any justice. At all events, it is a demand so grave as affecting the finances of India that at least it ought not to be pressed, except with the full consent of the Government of India, and after the most full consideration of it in all its bearings. But, my Lords, it is said that this demand is to be made because these troops, being in South Africa, will be more available for Indian purposes, and will reach India from South Africa more speedily than they would reach it from this country, and therefore, being a reserve for India, India ought to pay a portion of their cost. It seems to me that that is an argument which cuts both ways, and that if it is fair that India should pay a portion of the cost of these troops because they form an available reserve for her purposes, the British Treasury ought to pay a portion of the cost of the troops in India because they afford a generally available reserve for this country.

I should have thought that His Majesty's Government might have recollected that it is not so long ago that they had the benefit of the troops in India. You wanted a reserve and you turned to India. If it had not been for the troops obtained from India at the outbreak of the late war, before any steps had been taken for the effectual defence of the colony of Natal, the Boer invaders would not have reached Ladysmith alone, they would have taken Ladysmith and they would have taken Pietermaritzburg, and when my gallant friend Sir George White arrived at Durban he would have found himself shut up there by Boer besiegers. But you pay nothing for reserves of that kind. You wanted troops for China, and you went to India. But you pay nothing for reserves of that kind. Even at this moment a certain number of Indian troops are in Somaliland. I do not want to press that, because it is a small matter; but there they are available for Imperial purposes, and if you are to say to India that they must pay a portion of the cost of the troops in South Africa as forming a reserve for India, they may justly reply that we must pay a portion of the cost of the troops which they maintain, and which this country uses as a reserve from time to time for her own purposes. It seems to me that to that contention there is no answer. I cannot conceive what the answer will be if it be given. If the Government admit the justice of the contention, and if they intend, at all events in the future, if not in the past, to pay for troops kept in India which they may use for reserves, then I submit that Mr. Brodrick will get very little out of his proposed bargain. It is not India that will benefit by this, it is South Africa, and on that point I will say a word in a moment.

But before I pass to that part of the question I should like to ask to what extent the Government can show that the 25,000 men that they are going to keep in South Africa will be able to get to India materially quicker than they could if sent from this country. We all know that South Africa is, geographically, much nearer India than England is, but it is not merely a question of geographical position. It is also a question of transport, and I hope we shall be informed in the course of this evening what are the chances of getting transport rapidly for these troops which are to be sent to India. I am a little doubtful about the large amount of freight which can at any time be procured suddenly in South Africa. It may be very large and very valuable, but at the present moment I am slightly sceptical on the subject, and I am more sceptical because, when that point was raised in another place, Mr. Brodrick said—

> "We have thought all about that. We could get freight from South Africa and from India."

No doubt you can get freight from India, but then Bombay is not close either to Durban—which, by the way, is not a first-rate harbour—or to Cape Town. You have got to take up your freight in Bombay, and then send it empty to South Africa to fetch the troops. Will His Majesty's Government be good enough to say what amount of time they really think will be saved to India in obtaining these reinforcements if they are kept in South Africa rather than in England? I confess that I think it will be very slight. It may be a fortnight, it may be three weeks; but does the Government really believe that there is going to arise suddenly in India such an instant danger that you cannot afford to wait for a week or two before you send out these reinforcements, which, by-the-bye, Mr. Brodrick says are not to be first-rate men. They are to be men to occupy fortresses and stations while the other troops go to the front. Whence is this sudden attack to come? I know that there are a certain number of people in this country who go to bed every night under the conviction that there are 100,000 Russians buried underground on the other side of the Hindu-Kush, but I do not suppose that is the view of His Majesty's Government. I cannot conceive what is the extent of the danger which is pressing, or is likely to press, upon India which would make it to her advantage that she should pay a considerable sum towards the cost of these troops, which are to be maintained, as I contend, for other purposes in South Africa.

It is not India that will benefit by these troops, but, as I have said, South Africa. Mr. Brodrick admits that. He admits that the presence of 25,000 men in South Africa will be a great advantage to the inhabitants of that country. There is no doubt about it. South Africa will profit by the heavy expenditure which the presence of that number of men will involve. But are they going to pay anything? Is the country in which these troops are to be quartered to make a contribution towards their cost? The language of Mr. Brodrick on this point was singularly indefinite, and, indeed, rather mysterious. He spoke frankly enough of the pecuniary advantages which would be gained by South Africa from the presence of these troops. He said that the large expenditure incidental to the maintenance of this force would, naturally contribute considerably to the prosperity of these colonies; that that was a matter which must be considered with regard to the extra expenditure which was incurred; and that it would no doubt be the subject of consideration by those concerned. That is not the language used with regard to India —the language used with regard to South Africa is very vague and indefinite—and it may mean that South Africa is to pay something, or it may mean that she is to pay nothing. I ask His Majesty's Government to tell us to-night whether it is intended that South Africa should make any contribution or not.

The sound principle is that which used to be called the Cardwell principle—that British colonies in which troops are quartered should pay for those troops. You are going to keep such a large force in South Africa that that principle might be suspended for a time if she paid an appropriate contribution towards their cost. But whether South Africa pays or not has nothing to do with this question with regard to India. I contend that His Majesty's Government have no right to cast this charge upon the Indian revenue. It has never been done before. Troops in England have always been available as reserves for India, and you have never asked her to pay a single shilling; and her troops, for which she has paid to the uttermost farthing, you have always been willing to use for Imperial purposes when occasion required. I cannot help thinking that in real truth this question of reserves is a mere excuse. The Secretary of State wants another £1,500,000, and does not know how to get it. He did not like taking more than he could help out of taxation, and he has turned, in his perplexity, to India, thinking that he might get something from her. It is not just, it is not right, that you should treat India in this way. You dare not put a charge of that sort on your self-governing colonies—you know you dare not—and you turn for the contribution to India, where you think you have the power of enforcing it. You ask her for a contribution which you would not ask from Australia or any of the other colonies. Take the case of Canada. The Canadian frontier is a long frontier and one difficult to defend. I believe the colonial troops in Canada are excellent troops, but the reserve of Canada is here in England. If Canada were to be threatened with a danger,—which God forbid!—she would turn to us for her reserves, and she would rightly turn to us, but you are not going to ask Canada to pay anything for those reserves beforehand. You are not going to ask her to make any contribution to the military expenditure of this country. Why should you ask India to do that which you do not ask Canada to do? I shall be told, I daresay, that this matter is still under consideration, and, as Mr. Brodrick said, that "communications are passing between this country and India upon the subject." I venture to say that this is not a proposal which ought to have been submitted by the Cabinet of this country to the Government of India; that it is a proposal so inconsistent with the whole of our financial policy in regard to that country that if it had been asked for by a particular Minister, the Cabinet—if there is such an institution still in existence—ought to have rejected it; and I say yet further, and still more strongly, that if communications are going on at this time with the Governor of India upon the subject, nothing ought to have induced Mr. Brodrick to allude to it in the House of Commons. That is not the way to treat the Viceroy of India; and if these official communications are still going on, it was indeed an occasion for a little of that reticence of which we have not, perhaps, too much among our public men in the present day.

I do not know what Lord Curzon will say to these proposals, but I think the correspondence which was laid before the House of Commons shows that he is ready and anxious to resist any proposals that he thinks are unjust to India. There is another question, and a grave one too, which I should like to ask. Has the Secretary of State in Council been consulted on this subject, and are there any Minutes by members of the Council upon it? because, if so, we are entitled to see those Minutes. Another very grave aspect of this question is that if the proposal is carried out you will have succeeded in doing that which is by no means easy to do in India—you will have succeeded in uniting Europeans and natives in one common cause. I have here an extract from a telegram from India giving an account of the view taken of this proposal by the *Englishman* newspaper, of Calcutta. The noble Marquess the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs knows the *Englishman* very well. It is the leading European newspaper in Calcutta, and I believe the noble Marquess will agree with me when I say that it represents the general views of Europeans, and especially of the non-official Europeans of that capital. This telegram states that the *Englishman* has published an article on the proposal submitted by Mr. Brodrick, and proceeds—

> "The journal strenuously protests against the suggestion that India should be asked to pay a portion of the cost of the maintenance of the troops in South Africa. The impost would be unjust, as the reason given for it is trivial. Rather England should pay a portion of the cost of the troops in India, which have repeatedly come forward in Imperial crises."

That is the opinion of a leading newspaper in the capital of India—a newspaper which generally desires to support a Conservative Government, and which would not have made that statement so strongly unless it was convinced that it was echoing the general feeling of the European community. There can be no doubt as to the view which the natives will take of this matter, and what you will do by this proposal, if you persist in it, will be to unite Europeans and natives alike in common complaint against a proceeding which they consider to be unjust, and which I am compelled to say seems to me to be unjust also.

I have great confidence in Lord Curzon. He is a man of ability, and, I believe, of firmness of character. He has shown determination in the telegram contained in the papers to which I have referred. I hope, therefore, that he will resist this proposal, and it is partly that he may feel that if he does resist it there are those in this country who will sympathise with him, that I have ventured to bring the matter under your Lordships' notice to-night. If he resists it, and his resistance is successful, well and good. It will still be much to be regretted that the Government of this country should have made such a proposal at all. But if Lord Curzon were to object and were to be overruled, I say, without the slightest hesitation, that you would raise up a more mischievous discontent throughout the length and breadth of India than has been created by any English Government within the last fifty years. We are invited in these days to take very strange measures to keep the Empire together. I do not think the British Empire is moribund, and I do not think it is going to fall to pieces; but you must remember that India is a part of the Empire, that India is the greatest dependency of the British Crown, and I assure you that you cannot afford to act towards India unjustly, or to treat her sentiments with indifference and disrespect. I beg to move for Papers.

Moved, "That an humble address be presented to His Majesty's Government for Papers relating to the proposal of His Majesty's Government for placing a portion of the cost of the troops in South Africa upon the revenues of India."—(*The Marquess of Ripon.*)

*THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (The Earl of HARDWICKE): My Lords, the noble Marquess, who is an authority on all matters connected with India, and who has had a long experience of Indian Government, has pictured to us, if I may say so, gloomy anticipations regarding the proposal of His Majesty's Government, and has looked at this question apparently from the point of view of a paragraph in a newspaper called the *Englishman*, to which he has referred. He commenced by telling us that certain principles existed as regards military expenditure in India, and I shall at a later stage be glad to tie him to that statement. He then went on to say that, so far from asking India to pay the cost of any troops that might be quartered in South Africa, it should rather be the duty of the British Government to pay the cost of the existing troops in India.

THE MARQUESS OF RIPON: Only on your principle.

*THE EARL OF HARDWICKE: I felt that that was an entirely novel proposal, and it was not until the end of his speech that I was able to gather that it was only suggested to him by a paragraph in the newspaper to which he referred. I may as well read the words of the Secretary of State for War, on which the question of the noble Marquess is based. Mr. Brodrick stated that—

> "If a considerable body of troops was held in South Africa in a good climate, to avoid the extra expenditure of keeping them constantly standing idle in India in a worse climate, he thought they might fairly ask for some contribution from India."

That is all that the Secretary of State said, and yet the noble Marquess has assumed, firstly, that this proposal is made with only one object—namely, to get the Secretary of State out of a difficulty; and, secondly, that India is to be asked to pay the whole of the extra cost.

THE MARQUESS OF RIPON: I carefully stated a portion of the cost.

*THE EARL OF HARDWICKE: Then I misunderstood the noble Marquess. India is to pay a portion of the cost over and above what those troops would cost were they on the home establishment in this country. I think I can put a different complexion on the question at issue than that which the noble Marquess has put before the House. I would refer the House to statements made by the Prime Minister and by other Members of His Majesty's Government in the earlier stages of the present session, which show that His Majesty's Government have recently had seriously to consider the military strength of India, having regard to the possible invasion of her North-West Frontier. But this question of India's capacity to resist such an attack is not a new one. It has been the subject of correspondence and grave consideration by successive Governments and successive Viceroys for more than ten years past. Without suggesting that this correspondence has led to no result, it must be admitted that up to the present no definite or entirely satisfactory conclusion has been reached. It is admitted, both by the Government of India and by the Home Government—and I do not think the noble Marquess will deny it—that in the event of such an attack the whole resources of the British Empire would, and should, be at the disposal of India.

THE MARQUESS OF RIPON: I said so.

*THE EARL OF HARDWICKE: But the Government of India have naturally been reluctant permanently to increase the number of British troops stationed in India; and even had the Government of India been willing of recent years to defray the cost of an increased establishment I feel it hardly necessary to add that His Majesty's Government, owing to the war in South Africa, would not have been in a position to make that addition to the Indian garrison. In this connection I do not wish to convey to the House the idea that there has been any difference of opinion between His Majesty's Government and the Government of India as to the absolute necessity of additional troops in the event of an immediate outbreak of hostilities; nor do I wish to suggest that there has been any difference of opinion as to the number of troops necessary both in the first instance and at a later stage of war. What has been in question is the gist of the present subject of discussion. The Government of India have come to the conclusion, conjointly with His Majesty's Government, that on the immediate outbreak of hostilities the present British garrison of India would not be sufficient; and the question then arises whether His Majesty's Government can guarantee to send to India from these shores the necessary force as a first aid within the time the Government of India consider it will be necessary to have them. Assuming that His Majesty's Government do not see their way to guarantee to send that relatively small force —I use the expression "relatively small" as it would be a relatively small force compared to the force that would have to be sent out at a later stage—as a first aid to India, what is the alternative? The noble Marquess has told us the alternative himself. The only alternative is to increase permanently the British garrison; and it has always been admitted that India must pay for every soldier in the permanent garrison. This problem has been fully considered by the Committee of Imperial Defence, upon whom devolves the duty of advising His Majesty's Government in matters of this kind; and in addition to the problem of meeting the requirements of India in the event of war they have also had to consider the strength of the garrison that it would be necessary to maintain in South Africa. My right hon. friend the Secretary of State for War stated the other night in the House of Commons that His Majesty's Government had considered this problem of the maintenance of a force in South Africa from two standpoints—the Colonial standpoint and the Imperial standpoint; and I do not think that a better example could be given to Parliament and the public of the advantages that can result to different and far distant portions of the Empire from the deliberations of the Committee of Imperial Defence than that given by their treatment of these two problems: the security of our Indian frontier, and the force to be maintained in South Africa.

The question which the noble Marquess has addressed to me, whether it is proposed to place any proportion of the cost of the troops in South Africa upon the revenues of India, has already been answered in the House of Commons, and I can inform the noble Marquess that the Secretary of State for India, with the approval of his Council, has placed the proposal before the Government of India; but, inasmuch as the scheme cannot possibly take effect until next year, he has not pressed the Government of India for an immediate reply; indeed, it is the wish of His Majesty's Government that the Government of India should give the fullest possible consideration to the proposal. As I have said, the scheme is advantageous to India; it is advantageous to South Africa, and, I think, it is in some way advantageous to this country. Let me briefly explain its nature. The proposal is to keep a force of 25,000 men in South Africa. Of this force 12,500 men will be at the disposal of the Indian Government. These 12,500 men would cost in this country £1,000,000, and would cost in South Africa £1,750,000; and the Indian Government is asked to pay a proportion of the cost over and above what they would cost in this country. If India had to increase her establishment by 12,500 British troops, it would cost her £1,250,000 a year; and if she did not increase her garrison by that amount she would have to rely on this country sending the troops from these shores within a given time after the outbreak of hostilities. His Majesty's Government are not prepared to give that guarantee but they are prepared to guarantee that these 12,500 men can be dispatched from South Africa within the specified time; and in making that statement I have authority to say that it is concurred in the naval advisers of the Government.

THE MARQUESS OF RIPON: What is the specified time?

*THE EARL OF HARDWICKE: I am afraid I am unable to answer that question. The advantages of this arrangement to South Africa have already been referred to. A force of 25,000 men may be reckoned, as I think my right hon. friend stated in the House of Commons the other night, to spend yearly £2,000,000 in the country, and some £2,500,000 are being spent on the building of barracks. The men who have served their time will doubtless in some instances, perhaps in many instances, settle in the country, and there are also four garrison regiments to be maintained in South Africa, many of the men belonging to which will, doubtless, find useful employment there when their term of service is completed. In these circumstances, I think that His Majesty's Government are perfectly justified in asking the Colonial Government to contribute something towards the cost, just as in the same way they are asking the Indian Government to contribute. In looking at the advantages which may result to this country, we are saved from having to increase our establishments. We should have to increase our establishments, if India had to increase hers, for the supply of drafts and reliefs. That we are saved, and this arrangement will enable us to supply drafts and reliefs abroad without in any way dislocating our present Army system.

The noble Marquess referred to the assistance rendered to the Imperial Government by India from time to time in South Africa, in China, and in Somaliland. As regards Somaliland I would only make this one remark, that if it were not for India we should not be interested in Somaliland at all. Perhaps the noble Marquess is prepared to dispute that, but I merely mention it by the way. No one knows more than I do, how willingly and how generously assistance has been given by the Indian Government to this country, as during the late war I happened to be at the India Office. The Government of India are always eager to assist in every possible way. It is an advantage to the troops to gain experience of active service, while in time of peace they can be spared from India. Moreover, it is a great saving to the Government of India to allow the Imperial Government to employ their troops. Even last year I believe the saving on the Military Budget to the Government of India was over one million sterling.

The noble Marquess has also referred to the increase of pay of the British soldier, of which the Indian Government have to bear their share. There are two classes of payment which the Indian Government have been asked to bear. One is the increased pay of the British soldier. The Indian Government are bound to keep a British force in India, and to pay it according to the scale which His Majesty's Government has laid down. But this question of a contribution towards the maintenance of the troops in South Africa, which, we believe, is for the advantage of India, is certainly a matter in which the Secretary of State in Council and the Government of India have an absolutely free hand. The Secretary of State in Council is charged by Act of Parliament with the control—the absolute control—of the revenues of India, and, as the noble Marquess is probably aware, a majority of the Secretary of State's Council can overrule him. They are absolutely independent of Party feeling or any other consideration, except what in their judgment is in the interests of India. I cannot help regretting, therefore, that the noble Marquess should have come down to this House to condemn so hastily this proposal which has been framed by His Majesty's Government in the interests of India and after consultation with the military advisers of the Secretary of State for India, and which has been submitted as a proposal to the Government of India, with the full consent of the Secretary of State for India and his Council.

*THE EARL OF NORTHBROOK: My Lords the noble Earl opposite appears to have entirely forgotten, or never to have heard of, the reference of this question between India and the Imperial Government to a Commission over which my noble friend behind me, Lord Welby, presided. The noble Earl accused my noble friend who raised this question this evening of bringing forward a novel proposition when he said that the Imperial Government should pay a contribution to India in consequence of the great assistance we derive on many occasions by the use of Indian troops on Imperial service. So far from being novel, it has been an argument which has constantly been brought forward by successive Viceroys of India in respect to the claims made by the United Kingdom upon India for certain military expenses, and by no one more ably and more fully than by my noble friend, the Marquess of Lansdowne, when he was Viceroy and Governor-General of India. That question came before the Commission presided over by Lord Welby, and I will trouble your Lordships with an extract from the Report of that Commission, published four years ago. The Commission reported that—

> "India provides in the East a reserve force which, when India is quiet, can promptly and effectively, though only temporarily, aid British policy in the East, diminishing to that extent the number of men which in the absence of that assistance the Home Government must attach to distant parts from the garrison kept at home or in the colonies. It appears to us that India renders in this respect a real service to the United Kingdom, and that in respect of it she is entitled to liberal treatment. On the other hand it may be argued that the Army in the United Kingdom reciprocally maintains a reserve strength available for India in cases of extreme need. This is true,"—

I would call your Lordships' particular attention to the concluding words—

> "but if we are to judge from what has happened in the past, the circumstances in which India calls upon the United Kingdom for special aid are not of the same kind, nor likely to recur so frequently, as the calls of the United Kingdom on India."

Nothing can be more true than that. The case cannot be more fairly put than it is put in that Report. The Royal Commission, in the conclusion of their Report, said that the claims of India in this respect ought to be taken into consideration, when what is called the rate per head for the troops in India was reconsidered. If that was true in the year 1899, when my noble friend's Commission reported, it is a great deal more true now, and I wish to enforce it. I do not believe the Government can have considered the aid which was given by India to the United Kingdom during the South African war, or this proposal which is now being discussed would never have been made. The actual number of British troops from the garrison of India sent to South Africa was 8,215, and without the assistance of those troops I almost shudder to think what the result would have been in the earlier period of the war. But, besides that, there were no less than 8,743 native followers who assisted our soldiers in the field. The native Army of the King would have been only too delighted and proud to have fought side by side with the British Army, but it was not considered desirable, for reasons with which your Lordships are aware, to make use of the native Army in the fighting line. While the South African war was in progress a difficulty arose in China. How was that difficulty met? It was met by His Majesty's Indian forces. There were 16,300 of the native Army sent to China from India, and only 300 English troops. Is that not a valuable reserve? Can it be said that it is a novel idea, as suggested by the noble Earl the Under-Secretary of State for War, that, especially when you are asking for money from India, some consideration should be shown to that country on account of the military services which she has so nobly rendered to this country?

THE EARL OF HARDWICKE: I did not understand the noble Marquess to refer to the services of the Indian garrison to this country. What I thought the noble Marquess said was that it was the duty of His Majesty's Government rather than to ask India to pay for these troops, to pay for the stationary British force in India.

THE MARQUESS OF RIPON: Then I am afraid the noble Earl did not pay much attention to what I said.

*THE EARL OF NORTHBROOK: The services of the Indian Army are forgotten when it comes to money. Whenever there is difficulty it appears to me that poor India is called upon to pay. I do not know whether I am right, but it seems to me that at the outset the garrison proposed for South Africa was insufficient. I cannot help thinking that 15,000 men, which was the force proposed in 1901 in Mr. Brodrick's statement, was hardly a sufficient garrison to put in South Africa just at the end of a serious war, and I think it may be desirable that that number should be increased to 25,000 men. It is a very dangerous thing to run the protection of a country by British troops too fine, especially just at the close of a war, and when, too, according to some people, there may be some danger of a rising of the natives. Therefore, I do not quarrel with the proposal that the strength of our Army in South Africa should be increased to 25,000 men. But then the question arises—Is the presence of these troops in South Africa so greatly to the advantage of India as to make it right that the Indian Government should provide a considerable portion of the cost? I think the advantage is an exceedingly doubtful one.

We have had no real details before us of this matter. The noble Earl the Under-Secretary of State for War referred in the course of his observations to correspondence that has been going on with the Government of India on the subject. I am well aware that the question of an aggressive movement on the part of Russia on the North-west Frontier is a very delicate one, and it would not be right for me to ask for any correspondence with the Government of India as to the strength of the Army that would be necessary to meet such a contingency. But if it would not be right for me to ask for that correspondence, it is not right to refer to any correspondence of the kind in defence of this proposal. I greatly doubt whether any of the military authorities in India would be prepared to accept the proposal, so far as I understand it from Mr. Brodrick's speech, as of any great value in regard to the position of India. Originally it was proposed to have twelve battalions of infantry in South Africa, but now it is proposed to have fourteen infantry battalions and four garrison battalions, so that there is an increase of two regular battalions and four garrison battalions. But those fourteen battalions are taken out of the ordinary machinery for keeping up the strength of battalions abroad. It is some time since I was at the War Office, but I know enough of the details to state that the principle of our Army is that there should be one battalion abroad and one battalion at home, the latter keeping up the strength of the former; in that way the battalion abroad is always kept up to an efficient strength. So far as I understand Mr. Brodrick's proposal, these fourteen battalions that are to be left in South Africa will not have any battalions at home which can keep up their strength. Perhaps the noble Earl will correct me if I am wrong.

THE EARL OF HARDWICKE: You are quite right.

*THE EARL OF NORTHBROOK: That being so, what kind of battalions would these be if they were wanted in India? They are to be kept up by boys sent out as soon as they have had their six months drill. Therefore these fourteen battalions in South Africa, on which you are to rely to give effective assistance to India in case of danger, will be battalions composed almost entirely of young men. Mr. Brodrick admitted, I think, in his speech that you would have to send imperfect battalions, and battalions only fit to be in Calcutta, Madras, and so on. Is that a great benefit to India? And when they get to India, how are they to be reinforced? There will be no battalions at home on which they can rely to keep up their strength, and hence you will have some of the most inefficient battalions in the Army on which to rely as reinforcements to India in time of difficulty. I cannot think that the proposal, from a military point of view, is a good one; but I do not wish to go into that, because I think the important question for your Lordships to consider is whether it is just and fair, on the ground of the possible advantage of troops being nearer India, to ask the Government of India to pay a substantial sum in regard to their support. I have no hesitation in saying, looking at the whole question, that it would not be fair.

I consider that India has not been fairly treated by this country in respect to the charge made upon her in regard to military expenditure. That is proved by the Report of the Commission over which my noble friend behind me presided. After a most impartial investigation of all the circumstances of the case for many years, their decision was that we should pay to India something like £300,000 a year. If the proof was wanted that India had been badly treated before, the proof was then afforded; and in the discussion which took place I made what I thought was a very reasonable suggestion—namely, that as the delay of settling this question was entirely due to the procrastination of the Government of this country the decision given by the Royal Commission should be considered as having been made at a reasonable time after all the facts of the case had been known, and that five or six years arrears should be paid to the Government of India. Absolutely no notice was taken by His Majesty's Government of that suggestion, which appeared to me to be the fairest suggestion that could be put before any Government. I therefore say that I feel a want of confidence in the manner in which India has been treated, and possibly may be treated, by His Majesty's Government, and I hope that if the noble Duke opposite, who is, I believe, Chairman of the Committee of Imperial Defence, takes part in the debate this evening, he will give us an assurance that no charge will be placed upon the revenues of India in this matter before the opinions of the Secretary of State for India in Council and of the Viceroy of India in Council have been laid before Parliament, and Parliament has had an opportunity of expressing an opinion upon the subject. I share entirely the opinion expressed by my noble friend behind me, that it is most unfortunate that such a question as this is, which is absolutely certain to create great agitation in India, should have been brought before the other House of Parliament in so casual a way. Surely it would not have been impossible to have been a little reticent, to have waited till you had the opinion of the Governor-General of India before making a proposal to saddle India with a large charge in order to save the Army Estimates of this country. I do not think my noble friend opposite answered the Question put to the Government by the noble Marquess behind me —namely, whether any Papers can be presented now upon this subject, and I beg to repeat the Question.

THE EARL OF HARDWICKE: The Secretary of State for India has stated, in reply to a Question in the House of Commons this afternoon, that correspondence has only just commenced, and that he is unable at the present moment to state whether he will at a future date be able to lay Papers or not.

VISCOUNT GOSCHEN: My Lords, I think it is extremely fortunate that both in this House and in the other House there is always an extreme sensitiveness with regard to charging Indian revenues for Imperial purposes or for any purposes that may not seem exclusively Indian. That is a feeling which I share to the full. I view with suspicion every measure which is taken which places any fresh burden upon India without the full consent of the Secretary of State in Council and the Governor-General of India. It is from that point of view that I approach this important subject which is now in debate, and I confess that I came down to the House prejudiced against the proposal of His Majesty's Government, but I was prejudiced against that proposal because, like my two noble friends who have addressed the House from the Benches opposite, I was not in possession of the full facts. I think that the facts which have been placed before the House in the able speech of the noble Earl the Under-Secretary have placed a different complexion upon the whole of this transaction. I think that my noble friend who has just sat down did scant justice to the noble Earl the Under-Secretary with reference to the statement which he made, because he stated in the most absolute way that the Secretary of State in Council, with the assent of his Council, has agreed to the scheme.

*THE EARL OF NORTHBROOK: I did not understand the noble Earl to say that I understood him to say that with the assent of the Secretary of State's Council, he had sent the proposal out to India for the opinion of the Governor-General.

THE EARL OF HARDWICKE: The proposal has been made to the Government of India, but obviously the Secretary of State in Council would not have made the proposal if it had not been approved of in the interests of India.

*THE EARL OF NORTHBROOK: Is my noble friend perfectly certain of the accuracy of that statement, because I have information from the best source which makes me doubt it?

THE EARL OF HARDWICKE: The proposal was made after consultation with the military advisers of the Secretary of State for India, and was submitted by the Secretary of State for India, with the approval of his Council, to the Government of India.

VISCOUNT GOSCHEN: I understood my noble friend further to say that the military advisers of the Secretary of State in Council had been consulted, and had agreed to the proposal.

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: Hear, hear!

VISCOUNT GOSCHEN: If this is so, it is a most important point, and dispels much of the doubt in my mind as to the proposal of His Majesty's Government. Another statement that has influence upon me is that the scheme will not be carried through unless the Indian Government agree to it, and, that being so, the greater part of the objections raised fall to the ground. The next point to consider is whether the proposal will be for the benefit of India. My noble friend suggested that the scheme was entirely in favour of this country as relieving the Army Estimates, but I think we must attach great weight to two considerations which the Under Secretary of State has put before us. One is the examination of this question by the Committee of Imperial Defence, and the other the inherent strength of the case. The Defence Committee must have had before them expert evidence with reference to Indian military questions. The Defence Committee are too strong a body, I think, for it to be thought that they would simply give a decision in this matter which might relieve the Secretary of State for War of a difficulty, if he were in a difficulty. I reject that view entirely. I feel confident that the Committee of Defence have examined it. I know the men who serve on that Committee, naval and military, as well as political, and I am confident they would not have given their assent to such a scheme if they had not considered it a sound scheme, and one for the advantage of India. It is for that object that the Committee of Imperial Defence was organised. This is one of the first bits of work of the re-organised Committee of Defence that has been made public, and I am not prepared to condemn a scheme which has been devised by the Defence Committee without hearing more argument than has so far been brought against it.

What is the contention of the Committee of Imperial Defence and of His Majesty's Government? That immediately on the outbreak of hostilities directed against India, reinforcements could more quickly be sent from the Cape than from this country. When there was a question of a whole Army Corps being sent, I thought the argument sound that you would not be able to find ships enough at the Cape to transfer that number of men rapidly to India, and that therefore they might as well be here; but this is to be a first instalment of assistance, and the troops would be employed on garrison duty, or for the maintenance of lines of communication and services of that kind, by which I think considerable assistance might be rendered to the defence of India. My noble friend asked what was the time specified for this reaching India, and I noticed that there was a natural reticence on the part of the Government. If I were replying on behalf of the Government I should take the same view, that it would be injudicious to speculate on the time which it would take to transfer the troops from the Cape to India. But for this force of 12,500 men only, the probability is that you would find sufficient freight on the spot to transfer them rapidly to India.

I have felt it my duty to make these observations, and to mention the effect which the speech of the noble Earl the Under-Secretary has made upon me; and so far I have come to the conclusion that, subject always to the absolute and cordial consent of the Indian Government, it would be wise to carry out a scheme by which, as has been pointed out, reserves will be kept in a more healthy climate, and at a spot whence they can very rapidly be conveyed to the place where they will be wanted. I do not propose to go into the military part of the question, but I think after the speech of the Under-Secretary we may be quite sure that no injustice will be done to India in this matter. I am convinced that there is no Member of your Lordships' House who does not share the opinion of the noble Lords opposite that any unjust imposition upon the revenues of India ought always to be discountenanced by every English statesman and Member of Parliament, to whichever Party he may belong.

LORD WELBY: My Lords, I have only one title which justifies my addressing your Lordships on this subject—namely, the fact that I served on the latest Royal Commission that has sat upon Indian Finance. That Commission had to review the whole field of Indian expenditure, including the military expenditure incurred by that Empire. There were also referred to it two questions of the very highest importance, and those questions were referred to it particularly on account of a widespread discontent felt in India that the interests of India were not duly consulted by His Majesty's Government in fixing the contributions which India was to pay. The Royal Commission had first of all to consider the principle upon which a contribution should be made by India to the Home Government on account of British forces in India; and, secondly, there was the most important question whether it was not possible, in regard to those numerous questions, many of them of the highest importance, on which the British and Indian Governments differed, to appoint some impartial tribunal which should arbitrate upon the differences and give the final decision. These two questions were very difficult in their nature, and we took considerable time before we could arrive at a conclusion upon them. We had the advantage of having before us as witnesses the very highest authorities that can speak on behalf of India. We heard the Earl of Northbrook, the Marquess of Lansdowne, and Lord Cromer; and, of the military authorities, we heard Viscount Wolseley, Earl Roberts, and General Sir Henry Brackenbury. I think the names of those witnesses will convey to your Lordships the fact that, at all events, we had before us authoritative evidence of the very highest character, and witnesses on whose opinions we might, to a great extent, rely.

What was the upshot of the evidence we received? First of all, it was, of course, allowed that India should pay a reasonable and fair charge for the British forces in India. It was felt that a very great responsibility attached to the Government in this country in fixing the amount of that contribution and the principles on which India was to pay it, and, in consequence of there having been constant dissension between the two Governments on various questions, nearly all the witnesses agreed in thinking that it would be very desirable if some tribunal were created which should finally decide questions at issue. Speaking in 1896 the then Prime Minister, the Marquess of Salisbury, said—

> "Early in the present year I was so impressed in favour of such a course being adopted that I laid before my colleagues a proposal for the establishment of a tribunal which should be so impartially composed as to gain the confidence of the taxpayers of both countries."

I would make that utterance of Lord Salisbury the text of what I have to say. But your Lordships will have observed that, up to the time Lord Salisbury made this statement, the differences between England and India were confined entirely to the principles upon which the contribution should be made, and the amount of that contribution, on account of British soldiers serving in India. No question up to that moment had arisen as to any payment such as is now proposed. During the whole time that I can recollect this question being under discussion—nearly forty years now—I do not think I once heard mooted the suggestion of any payment by India towards the reserve of the Army in England. The Committee of the House of Commons, which sat on this subject in 1874 brought up one very important recommendation, to the effect that under no circumstances ought the Estimates of this country to be relieved at the cost of India. Departmental Committees subsequently endeavoured to lay down some principle upon which to govern the Indian contribution to England. I had a good deal of experience of the long dissension, which my noble friend very rightly said amounted almost to a scandal, between the India Office and the Treasury, and I do not recollect that the Treasury ever once suggested that a contribution should be made by India towards the British Army at home as constituting a reserve for India in case of emergency. I cannot but think that this is an entirely new question.

The subject of the reserve which England creates for India was considered by the Royal Commission over which I presided. My noble friend has quoted from the Report of that Commission, but I will state the circumstances under which that question came before us. There had been no suggestion made by the English witnesses or by the English Departments that any contribution of the kind should be made, but the Secretary of State for India appealed to the Commission to consider whether specially liberal treatment ought not to be accorded to India, and he proceeded to specify the number of heads under which he thought India was entitled to this particularly favourable consideration. It was in consequence of the Royal Commission having to consider this reference from the Government of India that they penned the paragraphs from which my noble friend has quoted. They gave considerable time to the evidence and to the Papers laid before them on the subject, with the result that they came to the conclusion that the benefit which England gave to India in regard to the reserves of her Army at home, did not quite counterbalance the assistance India was able to render to the policy of England in the Eastern seas by the fact of her having forces available to be sent into neighbouring countries. Surely, after all that has taken place it is desirable above everything else that Indian opinion should be reassured on this question, and that the people of India should not have any reason for thinking they are unfairly treated by the Government of this country. Is it possible that in the circumstances in which this case has been stated they can think otherwise than that the British Government, finding this charge inconvenient, have looked round, and have started the idea of making India contribute towards this extra expense under the pretext that she is paying for the reserves of the Indian Army in South Africa? I hope that the benefits which the reserves in India and the reserves in England afford to each other will be considered by the public and Parliament, and also whether those benefits which India gives to England do not only quite counterbalance, but more than counterbalance, the benefits which India gets from England.

*THE FIRST LORD OF THE ADMIRALTY (The Earl of SELBORNE): My Lords, my noble friend the Earl of Northbrook, besides dealing with this particular proposal which your Lordships are discussing, reviewed the nature of the financial relations between this country and India. In assessing what he thought ought to be the relative obligations of the two Exchequers, he left out two general considerations which I do not think your Lordships can possibly leave out in considering this great question. If it were not for the existence of the Indian military problem, our military problem would be simple and cheap. It is not only a question of the distribution of cost between England and India—of the system as we have it—but the very existence of our system is due to the requirements of India. Our system would be totally different, comparatively cheap, and certainly simple, if it were not for the Indian military problem. That consideration cannot be left out of account. But beyond that I ask your Lordships to consider the relation of the Navy and the naval expenses of this country to this problem. The Navy Estimates of this year amount to £34,500,000. If it were not for the Navy not one soldier could be sent by way of reinforcement to India in time of war. Therefore the service which the Navy performs for India is very great. But what does India contribute to the up-keep of the Navy? The contribution is a very exiguous one indeed; and the noble Lord who spoke last, I think, was impressed with the fact, because in the Report of the Royal Commission he was very careful not to say that the contribution was sufficient. He said the subject ought to be reviewed in the year 1905. Therefore I say, looking at this question as a whole as one of Imperial defence, and not as a military question only, my noble friend Lord Northbrook left out two considerations of great magnitude which affect this problem—the fact that the requirements of India have dictated our military system, and that India's contribution to the naval expenditure of this country is very limited indeed.

LORD WELBY: The noble Earl refers to a paragraph in our Report which stated that the naval contribution of India should be reviewed in 1905. I would remind the noble Earl that the whole of our proposal turned on the point of periodical revision of the contribution made both for the Army and the Navy. It was not confined to the Navy.

*THE EARL OF SELBORNE: Now I come to the specific proposal, which may be good or bad. I want to state in the most emphatic terms possible that this policy is not the creation of the War Office; it is the work of the Defence Committee. We have been engaged on this problem of Indian defence for a very long time. I do not think even my noble friend Lord Rosebery would complain of the manner in which we have dealt with this problem as being inefficient. There has not been a single meeting at which we have considered this Indian problem at which, in addition to the President of the Council, the Prime Minister, the Secretary of State for War, myself, and the two naval and two military experts, there have not also been present the Secretary of State for India and three members of the Indian Council. That is a very material fact in considering this decision. What is the problem with which we are confronted? Authorities both in India and at home are agreed that within a certain definite time after the outbreak of war—one, that is, of which the invasion of India would probably form a part—a certain reinforcement would be required in India, and after another period of time a still further reinforcement would be required. Can you send these reinforcements, says the Indian Government to the War Office. Yes, answers the War Office, we can send them at once from England. Then the Admiralty comes in; and it is the opinion of the Admiralty, which I do not think for one moment would be demurred to by my noble friends opposite, who have had the same responsibility as myself, that they would not be prepared to guarantee that troops would be sent within that period. The question then arose whether India was to run the risk involved or to have a permanent addition to her garrison at an immensely increased cost compared with her present charge. It was in the consideration of this problem that the suggestion was made to ear-mark in South Africa a certain portion of His Majesty's forces which could be sent at once to India on the outbreak of war, and which the Admiralty would guarantee so to send. It has been on these grounds that the decision has been come to. In respect of his criticism that these soldiers, even if sent, would be ineffective, the noble Earl is under a misconception. It is true that these troops would not be fed from the linked battalions in England, but, as he is aware, there has never been a moment at which every battalion abroad has been fed from a linked battalion in England.

THE EARL OF NORTHBROOK: That was so in Lord Cardwell's time.

*THE EARL OF SELBORNE: Certainly not for the last twenty years. There has been a certain number of battalions, sometimes only one or two, sometimes a much larger number, which have been fed by depôts in England. These regiments in South Africa will be so fed, and they will not themselves be called upon to furnish drafts to any other unit. Therefore, if called upon to go to India, they would be very effective regiments. It is quite true that in all probability these soldiers, being younger and uninured to the climate, would be sent into garrisons; but then that would have exactly the effect required. As the noble Earl will remember, there are certain obligatory garrisons in India, and the newly-arrived regiments would release from those garrisons old and matured troops who could be utilised at the front. This policy may commend itself to your Lordships or it may not; but it is a policy founded on a very real and mature consideration of the difficulties of the case in order to meet a want which nobody denies, and to the consideration of which the Council of India has, through its representatives, throughout been a party.

*EARL SPENCER: My Lords, this is a question of the highest possible importance, and very properly, in consequence of the terms in which my noble friend put his Resolution, has been confined to the effect on India of the proposal of His Majesty's Government. Incidentally I would venture to say that it bears in a very important way on the whole proposals of the Government with regard to the Army. We on this side of the House have at different times complained of the excessive cost which we think the proposals of the Government involve. Now we are told that if this plan is carried out a very large sum of money—nearly £1,000,000, I think—will be required in addition to what we spent before. That is a very serious decision, but I will not go into it to-night. It was stated in another place, and the Under-Secretary for War stated again to-day, that this question must be reviewed from two points of view, the colonial and the Imperial. From the colonial point of view, there can be no doubt whatever that it would be an enormous advantage to the colony in which these troops will be stationed to have the money spent within its borders. Then there is the Imperial point of view. I confess that I have not been much struck by what has been said in regard to this. As has been said before this afternoon, this is no new question. We have heard already that the danger to India was one of the reasons why the Army Corps scheme of the Secretary of State for War was created. But I confess that there seems to me very grave doubt whether the new aspect of affairs in India has made it more necessary to increase largely the forces there. To-day, however, we have heard the colonial and the Imperial point of view, and we have had something more said of the Indian point of view, to which I attach great importance.

It seems to me a very serious thing at this time of day to alter largely the *concordat* which has been arrived at between this country and India with regard to the pay of the Army. That has always been a matter of discussion, sometimes even of dispute; and, as the noble Earl has referred to the question of the Navy, I may say that I know too well that the question of the contribution of India to that service has been often in dispute. When I was at the Admiralty my noble friend behind me, Lord Welby, and the India Office had been, so to speak, at war for years, and we had to settle the question, though we did not attempt to settle it by referring the question of policy to the Lord Chief Justice. But we obliged the Treasury at last, very reluctantly, to come to a decision on this question. These questions, however, of the proper contributions to the Army and Navy stand on their own basis and must be settled on principles fair and just to India. After all that we know India has done in helping us in South Africa, after all that she has done in helping us in China, and after all that she has done in the same direction on many former occasions, is it fair to put a new and heavy tax upon her? It has now been practically decided by the Lord Chief Justice that India is to pay this increased contribution of £700,000 a year to the Army, and that being so it is hardly the time to throw this additional heavy charge upon her. I quite admit that the matter has not yet been decided; but I think on that account it is of the highest possible importance, as the Government have shown their hand, that we should enter a *caveat* in the matter and give our opinions as to what is just to India.

It is rather strange, but it is not the first time under this Government, that before one Department has settled with another Department on a point of policy—and here I gather that although the Secretary of State for India and his military advisers were present at the deliberations of the Committee of Defence, yet the agreement of the Viceroy and his Council to the proposal has not yet been received—the Government have made a declaration on the subject. There was a recent speech in Birmingham in which a very important declaration of policy was made without the concurrence certainly of a great number of members of the Cabinet. But there was a case earlier in which the noble Earl opposite had at all events not agreed to a proposal of the Secretary for War with regard to the defence of coaling stations, and yet that proposal was put forward in a speech on the Army by the Secretary for War. I ventured to call the attention of your Lordships' House to that, and we had an interesting discussion, and the Government did not persevere in the proposal. It seems to me a very curious and novel proceeding that one Department should disclose proposals to which another Department concerned has so far withheld its assent. It is a novel constitutional doctrine, and I cannot help protesting against it as not conducive to strong government by a responsible Cabinet. I will press on the noble Duke that we ought to pause before this matter is decided, and that we ought to have Papers before us showing what is the opinion of those most concerned in the matter, the Council of India in this country, and the Viceroy and his Council in India.

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: My Lords, I do not think it possible to carry this discussion very much farther in the absence of any information as to the views of the Government of India upon the proposal which has been made to them. The noble Marquess made an extremely eloquent oration protesting against what he called the demand that had been made on the Government of India. I think he must himself by this time be convinced that his eloquence and his indignation were somewhat premature. There is no demand made on the Government of India. What has been done is this. A proposal has been made to them for their consideration which may in all probability have the effect of relieving them of a very heavy burden which otherwise they might have to incur. The noble Earl who has just sat down talked about our imposing a fresh burden on India. There is no demand upon India. There is no proposal placing a fresh burden upon her, certainly not without our first hearing the views of the Government of India and also the Secretary of State in Council.

The noble Marquess spoke, I think, either in entire ignorance or with neglectfulness of the changed conditions relating to the defence of India. It is a long time since the noble Marquess returned from India, but he must be aware that many of the elements of the problem have enormously altered since he was responsible for the defence of that country. He talked, I think, about the dreams which haunted the sleep of people of hundreds of thousands of Russians lying behind the Hindu-Kush. But we cannot ignore the fact that the frontiers of Afghanistan and the Russian Empire are now conterminous, nor can we ignore the fact that the communications between the Russian frontier and her military bases have either been completed or have made enormous progress during the last few years. Is it not therefore presumable that, without any nightmares about hundreds of thousands of men behind the Hindu-Kush, we here and those who are responsible for the government of India may consider that the problem of India has in the last few years materially and essentially changed? As a matter of fact this question of the defence of India has been under consideration both here and in India by several Committees in recent years, and more recently, as has been stated over and over again, it has been under the consideration of the Committee of Imperial Defence. I do not believe that there is any doubt in the minds of any of the military advisers who have examined this question that in such circumstances the present garrison of India may not be sufficient to meet a possible invasion.

The alternatives which appear to present themselves are, first, that the Government of India should take the risk and rely on the chance of adequate reinforcements arriving in time from this country, or, in the second place, that India should undertake the expense and burden of a considerable addition to her permanent garrison. It is quite possible that this is a course which we may have to urge upon the Indian Government. But before making any proposal of that kind we have made this suggestion, which will, in our opinion, place at the disposal of the Government of India a considerable reserve which will, for all essential purposes, be as useful as an increase in the establishment of India. If the garrison of India were increased, then, according to all precedent, India would pay the whole cost of such increase. By this proposal we suggest a means whereby, for a payment of about £400,000—or one-half, not of the whole cost of the force, but of the additional cost involved by their maintenance in South Africa—the Government of India will virtually have a force of 12,500 men at call in South Africa. As to the supposed increase of the Estimates by £1,500,000, that sum was mentioned by the Secretary of State for War as the cost of maintaining 25,000 men in

South Africa over and above the cost of maintaining them in the United Kingdom. The Secretary of State mentioned at the same time that the garrison of South Africa had never been less than 5,000, and that the proposal which had been made previous to the one now under consideration, was for a garrison of 15,000. Therefore there is no proposal to increase the Estimates by £1,500,000. The actual cost of the proposal now under consideration amounts to about £900,000, of which it is proposed that the Government of India should be invited to contribute less than one-half.

I think it is somewhat unfortunate that, at a time when it is impossible for the Government of India to have considered the proposal, it should be suggested by any responsible statesman in this House that what appears to us to be an extremely reasonable proposal, ought to be regarded by the Government of India as an unjust demand. Reference has been made to the fact that the proposal has been spoken of in the other House almost simultaneously with its communication to the Government of India. Your Lordships are perfectly aware that during the whole of the session, and especially during the earlier part of it, there have been, both in this House and in the other, protracted debates on the whole subject of military organisation. At the earlier period of this session, when these questions were still under the consideration of the Government, it was impossible for the Secretary of State for War fully to develop his plan. But he gave an undertaking to make before the conclusion of the session a further statement on the subject. I do not think that my right hon. friend could have escaped from that undertaking, and I am sure that some of his opponents in the other House would have been very much dissatisfied if he had not made such a statememt. There may be some inconvenience in having the question discussed here before the view of the Government of India has been ascertained, but such things are occasionally inseparable from the publicity which must attend all our discussions and our policy here; and I do not think that any blame is to be attached to my right hon. friend for having communicated—not the demand of this Government, because no demand has been made—but the suggestion and proposal which has now been submitted to the Government of India, as likely to relieve them from a very great and pressing difficulty.

THE MARQUESS OF RIPON: I am glad to have raised the discussion. since it has drawn from the noble Duke the statement that nothing would be done except after the fullest consideration, and with the consent of the Government of India. That is a most satisfactory piece of information.

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: I said nothing about consent. I said that nothing would be done without the fullest consultation with the Government of India; and I believe it is a recognised fact that no part of the revenues of India can be applied without the consent of the Secretary of State and his Council.

THE MARQUESS OF RIPON: Will the noble Duke give an assurance to the House that no final decision will be taken until such time as the opinions of the Viceroy in Council and of the Secretary of State and his Council have been laid before Parliament.

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: I do not know what is implied by "final decision." I suppose that the decision which may be arrived at cannot be altogether ignored in the preparation of the Estimates for next year, and those Estimates will be in an advanced state of preparation before Parliament meets. Does the noble Marquess call that a final decision?

THE MARQUESS OF RIPON: I mean a final decision in the House. Of course I do not say before the Estimates are laid, but before they are discussed and voted on.

THE EARL OF NORTHBROOK: I hope the noble Duke will give us an answer.

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: I cannot undertake to commit the Departments concerned. I can promise that nothing will be done without the fullest consultation with the Indian Government and with the Secretary of State and the Council here. I have also promised that such Papers as we can lay will be communicated to Parliament as soon as possible. But I cannot promise that no steps will be taken by the Government on its own responsibility until those steps have been discussed by Parliament

Motion, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

METROPOLITAN STREETS BILL.

Read 1^a; to be printed; and to be read 2^a To-morrow.—(*The Lord Belper.*) (No. 166.)

House adjourned at twenty minutes before Seven o'clock, till To-morrow, half-past Ten o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Monday, 20th July, 1903.

The House met at Two of the Clock.

UNOPPOSED PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

NAVAL WORKS (PORTSMOUTH BARRACKS SITE) BILL (STANDING ORDERS APPLICABLE THERETO NOT COMPLIED WITH).

MR. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bill, referred, pursuant to the Order of the House of the 14th day of July, the Standing Orders which are applicable thereto have not been complied with, viz.:—Naval Works (Portsmouth Barracks Site) Bill.

Ordered, That the Report be referred to the Select Committee on Standing Orders.

Baker Street and Waterloo Railway Bill; Midland Great Western Railway of Ireland Bill; Walker and Wallsend Union Gas Bill. Lords' Amendments considered, and agreed to.

Carmarthenshire Electric Power Bill [Lords]; Fife Electric Power Bill [Lords]. Read the third time, and passed, with Amendments.

St. Philip's Chapel (Regent Street) Bill [Lords] (King's consent signified). Bill read the third time, and passed, without Amendment.

Bournemouth Corporation Tramways Bill [Lords]; Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire Tramways Bill [Lords]; Sutton Coldfield Corporation Bill [Lords]. As amended, considered; to be read the third time.

Bangor Corporation Bill [Lords]; Brighton Corporation Bill [Lords]; Pentillie Estate Bill [Lords]; South Staffordshire Tramways Bill [Lords]. Read a second time, and committed.

Gas Orders Confirmation (No. 1) Bill [Lords]; Water Orders Confirmation Bill [Lords]. Read the third time, and passed, without Amendment.

Gas Orders Confirmation (No. 2) Bill [Lords]. As amended, considered; to be read the third time to morrow.

Tramways Orders Confirmation (No. 1) Bill [Lords]. Read a second time and committed.

Scottish Episcopal Clergy Widows' and Orphans' Fund Confirmation Order. Bill to confirm a Provisional Order under The Private Legislation Procedure (Scotland) Act, 1899, relating to the Scottish Episcopal Clergy Widows' and Orphans' Fund, ordered to be brought in by The Lord Advocate and Mr. Solicitor-General for Scotland.

Scottish Episcopal Clergy Widows' and Orphans' Fund Confirmation Bill. "To confirm a Provisional Order under The Private Legislation Procedure (Scotland) Act, 1899, relating to the Scottis Episcopal Clergy Widows' and Orphans' Fund," presented accordingly; and ordered to be considered upon Friday.

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.

That they have agreed to—Pier and Harbour Provisional Orders (No. 5) Bill, with an Amendment.

Amendments to—London, Brighton, and South Coast Railway Bill [Lords];

Mersey Docks and Harbour Board Bill [Lords], without Amendment.

That they have passed a Bill, intituled, "An Act to confirm a Provisional Order under The Private Legislation Procedure (Scotland) Act, 1899, relating to the Lanarkshire Tramways." [Lanarkshire Tramways Order Confirmation Bill (Lords)]

Lanarkshire Tramways Order Confirmation Bill [Lords]. Read the first time; to be read a second time upon Tuesday, 28th July, and to be printed. [Bill 284.]

PETITIONS.

LICENSING (SCOTLAND) ACTS AMENDMENT BILL.

Petition from Winchburgh, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

NATIONAL DEFENCE SCHEME.

Petition from Baildon, for adoption; to lie upon the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

TRADE (COLONIES AND UNITED KINGDOM).

Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 16th July—*Mr. Fuller*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 262.]

SOMALILAND (DESPATCHES).

Copy presented, of Despatches relative to the Operations of the Somaliland Field Force [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

ARMY (MILITIA).

Copy presented, of Further Regulations relating to the Militia [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

ARMY RESERVE.

Copy presented, of Further Regulations relating to the Army Reserve [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

BOARD OF EDUCATION.

Copy presented, of Syllabuses and Lists of Apparatus applicable to Schools and Classes other than Elementary (from 1st August, 1903, to 31st July, 1904) [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

GOVERNMENT LABORATORY.

Copy presented, of Report of the Principal Chemist upon the work of the Government Laboratory for the year ended 31st March, 1903, with Appendices [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

COUNTY OFFICERS AND COURTS (IRELAND) ACT, 1877.

Account presented, of the Receipts and Payments under the Act during the year ended the 31st March, 1903 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 263.]

TRADE REPORTS (ANNUAL SERIES).

Copies presented, of Diplomatic and Consular Reports, Annual Series, Nos. 3034 and 3035 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

Paper laid upon the Table by the Clerk of the House:—

SUPREME COURT (RULES).

Copy of Rules of the Supreme Court, dated 14th July, 1903 [by Act].

PAROCHIAL MEDICAL OFFICERS (SCOTLAND).

Return ordered, "of the number of parishes in the counties of Orkney, Shetland, Caithness, Sutherland, Ross and Cromarty, Inverness and Argyll, in which the office of resident Parochial Medical Officer has been vacant within the last seven years, stating (*a*) name of parish; (*b*) number of times a vacancy has occurred; (*c*) length of time the office has been vacant in each case."—(*Mr. Cathcart Wason.*)

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

Value of Imports into British Colonies and Possessions from Foreign Countries.

MR. PARTINGTON (Derbyshire, High Peak): To ask the President of the Board of Trade, with reference to the Return [C .1638], stating the value of the trade of the various British colonies and possessions with the United Kingdom, other British possessions, and foreign countries during the year 1901, can he state the value of manufactured goods, raw material, and food stuffs respectively, imported into each colony and possession from foreign countries during that year.

(*Answered by Mr. Gerald Balfour.*) I am prepared to grant a Return of the imports from foreign countries into the self-governing colonies for 1901, but even this will take some time.

Average Prices of Iron, Steel, etc., and Cotton and Woollen Goods in 1872 and 1902.

MR. GEORGE WHITELEY (Yorkshire, W. R., Pudsey): To ask the President of the Board of Trade whether he will state the average prices of Middlesbrough No. 3 pig iron, of steel rails, and of ship plates; also of cotton cloth nine pound and eight and a-quarter pound shirtings; and also of the standard woollen goods supplied by contract to the War Office and Admiralty in the years 1872 and 1902 respectively.

(*Answered by Mr. Gerald Balfour.*) The average selling prices of Middlesbrough No. 3 pig iron at the works in 1872 and 1902 were 65s. 4d. per ton and 46s. 10·21d. per ton respectively. The average selling prices of heavy steel rails and ship plates in the North of England and Cleveland in 1902 were £5 8s. 10d. and £5 14s. respectively. The information as to these prices in the possession of the Board of Trade only goes back to 1887. The Board of Trade have no official information as to the course of prices of cotton goods of the particular descriptions named. The average price of plain cotton piece goods exported in 1872 was 3·51d. per yard, and in 1902 2·01d. (unbleached), and 2·46d. (bleached). The last part of the Question should be addressed to the War Office and Admiralty.

Scotch Fishing Boats—Crew Space—Deductions for Sanitary Accommodation.

MR. BLACK (Banffshire): To ask the President of the Board of Trade whether, in cases where Scotch fishermen supply sanitary accommodation in their boats, deductions from the test rule measurement will be allowed in respect of crew space.

(*Answered by Mr. Gerald Balfour.*) If the registered tonnage of a vessel is arrived at under the tonnage regulations of The Merchant Shipping Act, 1894, and the sanitary accommodation is in accordance with the Sixth Schedule to that Act, the usual deduction from crew space will be allowed, but not if the tonnage of the vessel is arrived at by what is known as the test rule.

Transference of Old Ships from British Ownership to Foreign Flags.

MR. RUNCIMAN (Dewsbury): To ask the President of the Board of Trade how many old sailing ships and old steamships were sold from British ownership under the British flag to foreign ownership under foreign flags in each year from 1875 to 1902; and what was the tonnage thus transferred in each year respectively.

(*Answered by Mr. Gerald Balfour.*) If the hon. Member will move for a Return of the information asked for in this Question I shall be happy to supply it.

German and British Trade Statistics—Explanation of Differences.

MR. D. A. THOMAS (Merthyr Tydvil): To ask the President of the Board of Trade if he will explain the difference in the methods adopted by ourselves and Germany of arriving at the value of the trade between the two countries, whereby the statistics given in the Annual Statement show the yearly exports from the United Kingdom to Germany to generally exceed the imports therefrom, whereas the figures in the Foreign Statistical Abstract, derived from German sources, show the exports from that country to us as largely exceeding the imports from us; and can he say whether the principal foreign countries adopt our system of valuing imports c.i.f. or inclusive of freight and insurance, or the American system of valuing them at the place of shipment abroad.

(*Answered by Mr. Gerald Balfour.*) The values of imports and exports in the United Kingdom Trade Accounts are based on declarations of importers and exporters as to the value at the port of arrival or departure, respectively.

The values in the German Accounts are based on official valuations revised annually by a Commission. In both cases sea freight is included in the value of imports, but not in that of exports, and this is also true of the principal foreign countries, except the United States. The differences between the value of trade between the United Kingdom and Germany, as shown in the United Kingdom and German Trade Accounts respectively, are due to several causes, among which are the magnitude of the transit trade through Belgium and Holland, which causes part of Anglo-German trade to be recorded as carried on with those countries, and the omission of the free port of Hamburg from the Imperial German Accounts.

Trade to East African Protectorate—Subsidies to British Steamships.

MR. ORR-EWING (Ayr Burghs): To ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether his attention has been directed to that part of the Report by His Majesty's Commissioner on the East African Protectorate (Africa, No. 6, 1903), in which it is pointed out that out of a gross tonnage of steamers which entered the ports of Mombasa and Kilindini of 424,212 tons during 1902, German shipping amounted to 170,188 tons, and to the remark that, as the French and German lines which frequent this port are both subsidised, it is greatly to be hoped that a similar privilege, as recommended by the Parliamentary Committee which considered the subject, may be extended to British lines in order that British trade may not be at a disadvantage; and, if so, whether he will state if he contemplates taking any action in the matter, or if he will see that it receives attention during the Fiscal Inquiry.

(*Answered by Mr. Ritchie.*) My attention has been called to the Report in question, from which I observe that Sir C. Eliot, while pointing out that German tonnage was 170,188, states that 224,604 tons (or over half the total) were British. No French shipping appears, according to the Report, to have entered the ports of Mombasa and Kilindini in the year 1902–3. From the imports statements I observe that, in addition to practically the whole of the Government imports (£700,660), about 62 per cent. of the trade imports (£443,032 in all) came from the United Kingdom and India, as against 11·4 per cent from Germany. No action in the matter is at present contemplated; but I may add that there is reason to hope that a direct British service may not require recourse to subsidies.

Marriage Allowance to Women Telephone Operators.

MR. YOXALL (Nottingham, W.): To ask the Postmaster-General whether women telephone operators upon the established staff of the Post Office are entitled to the compassionate allowance granted to other female employees of the Civil Service upon their resignation from the Service owing to marriage.

(*Answered by Mr. Austen Chamberlain.*) Yes, Sir.

Resignations of Post Office Second Division Clerks.

MR. YOXALL: To ask the Postmaster-General whether he can state the number of clerks of the second division employed by the Post Office who resigned their positions and left the Civil Service during the twelve months ending December, 1902; and whether the causes of the resignations can be stated generally.

(*Answered by Mr. Austen Chamberlain.*) The number was seven, but reasons were not given in all the cases.

British Troops in South Africa—Charge on Indian Revenues.

MR. BUCHANAN (Perthshire, E.): To ask the Secretary of State for India whether the Government of India has given its consent to the proposal to charge the Indian Revenues with part of the cost of the maintenance of British troops in South Africa; and whether the correspondence that has passed on the subject will be laid upon the Table at an early date.

(*Answered by Secretary Lord George Hamilton.*) I am in communication with the Government of India upon the proposal to which the hon. Gentleman refers, but no decision has as yet been arrived at. Until the correspondence is complete I can give no opinion as to whether or not it can be published.

Gun Sights on the "Donegal."

MR. YERBURGH (Chester): To ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether the gunnery trials of the "Donegal," near Plymouth Harbour, were postponed in consequence of the sights being incorrect; and, if so, who is responsible for the supply of the defective apparatus.

(*Answered by Mr. Arnold-Forster.*) The gunnery trials of the "Donegal" were not postponed, but were carried out on the 1st July. Certain experimental fittings, designed to facilitate sighting, were to have been tried in this ship, but it was found that the fittings referred to could not be prepared by the date fixed for gun trials. The special series was therefore not fired in this ship, but will be carried out in another of the same class. I may add that the twin mountings carried on this ship and others of her class are of novel design, and the sighting arrangements are, therefore, to a large extent experimental, as they have to be adjusted to the peculiar form of turret and mounting.

Additional Naval Attaché.

MR. YERBURGH: To ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether an additional Naval attaché has recently been appointed; and, if so, to what country he has been accredited, and what are the reasons for his appointment.

(*Answered by Mr. Arnold-Forster.*) An additional Naval attaché has been appointed, and it will thus be possible to accredit separate attachés to Rome and St. Petersburgh respectively. The reason for the appointment is the additional amount of work thrown upon the existing attachés owing to the rapid and recent development of foreign Navies.

Suggested Appointment to Congested Districts Boards of Chairman of Kerry County Council.

MR. MURPHY (Kerry, E.); To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether, having regard to the representations of public bodies as to the appointment of some southern member on the Congested Districts Board, he will appoint to the next vacancy the Chairman of the Kerry County Council.

(*Answered by Mr. Wyndham.*) I cannot make an announcement in respect to a future appointment until a vacancy occurs.

Disturbance in Donegal Street, Belfast.

MR. SLOAN (Belfast, S.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant o Ireland whether he is aware that a procession on the 13th inst., while passing down Donegal Street, Belfast, was stoned, and that persons were injured; and if he can state why only two policemen were placed at this point to keep back the opposing mobs.

(*Answered by Mr. Wyndham.*) There were sixty-four police on duty in Donegal Street at the time of the occurrence. They did their utmost to keep the opposing mobs asunder, and several of them were struck with stones.

Interference with Erection of an Arch at Belfast by a Sergeant of the Royal Irish Constabulary.

MR. SLOAN: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that a sergeant of the Royal Irish Constabulary in Greencastle, Belfast, cut the roping of an arch and prohibited its erection; and, if so, will he say on whose authority this officer acted in this matter.

(*Answered by Mr. Wyndham.*) The erection of an Orange Arch on Sunday the 12th inst. was calculated, in the opinion of the local police authorities, to lead to a disturbance of the public peace and tranquillity. Roman Catholics would have had to pass under it in going to their place of worship. The erection of the arch on Sunday was, therefore, prevented, but it was put up on Monday, the date of the Orange demonstration.

Average Cost of Infantry Soldier in England.

COLONEL LONG (Worcestershire, Evesham): To ask the Secretary of State for War if he will state what is the average cost per year of an infantry soldier in England, including share of barrack accommodation and regimental officers, but not any Staff or departmental expenses, when he is serving with a battalion on lowest home establishment, when serving in an ordinary peace depôt, supposing him to serve a year in it, and when serving in one of the larger depôts of 600 or upwards which were started during the war.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Brodrick.*) As regards the trained infantry soldier at home my hon. and gallant friend will find figures comprising the personal charges of the individual soldier, including a rate per head for barrack accommodation, in my reply to a Question put by the hon. Member for East Bristol on 26th May last.† It would be very difficult to give figures in respect of the additional cost of regimental officers in a battalion and at a depôt, and they would be very misleading for purposes of comparison, as the functions of a battalion and depôt are dissimilar.

Actual Strength and Authorised Establishment of Foot Guards.

Mr. KENNETH BALFOUR (Christchurch): To ask the Secretary of State for War what is the actual strength of each regiment of Foot Guards at the present time, and what is the establishment authorised for the same.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Brodrick.*) The figures are as follows:—

	Estab.	Strength.
Grenadier Guards -	2,661	2,433
Coldstream Guards -	2,661	2,252
Scots Guards - -	2,679	2,094
Irish Guards - - -	1,100	1,145

It will be observed that the deficiency is mainly in the Coldstream and Scots Guards, to each of which an additional battalion has been recently added.

Trade between Great Britain and the Colonies.

Mr. D. A. THOMAS: To ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies if he is at liberty to state broadly the grounds upon which the representatives of the colonies, more particularly those of Canada, came to the resolution at the Conference last year that, in the present circumstances of the colonies, it is not practicable to adopt a general system of free trade as between the mother country and the British Dominions beyond the seas; and to what extent the resolution was due to the necessity of protecting colonial manufacturers against those in this country.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Chamberlain.*) The hon. Gentleman asks me to give a broad indication of what was in the minds of the Colonial Premiers when they came to certain resolutions. I regret to say that, not being a thought reader, I am unable to comply with his request.

Canada and Great Britain—Imports of Iron and Steel.

Mr. D. A. THOMAS: To ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies in view of the fact that certain iron and steel manufactures are stated to be on the Canadian list of free imports only until such time as any of the said articles are manufactured in Canada, if he can say what length of notice is required to be given that goods hitherto imported from the mother country free will be charged a Customs duty on arrival in Canada; and whether the wire rods, upon the manufacture of which it is reported the Canadian Government propose to give a bounty of $6 per ton, or the structural ironwork and large steel plates, upon which it is proposed to give a bounty of $3, are at present being made in Canada.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Chamberlain.*) I have no information which will enable me to answer the hon. Member's Question. The law is silent on the point raised.

QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE.

Somaliland Operations.

Mr. DILLON (Mayo, E.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether the Government have yet received full despatches from General Manning in reference to the recent operations in Somaliland; whether the Government have yet come to a decision as to the future policy to be pursued in Somaliland; when General Manning's despatches and the decision of the Government will be communicated to the House; and whether the Government are now in a position to give an estimate of the probable cost of the operations in Somaliland during the current financial year over the amount already provided by Parliament.

---

† See (4) *Debates*, cxxii., 1796.

*THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO THE WAR OFFICE (Lord STANLEY, Lancashire, Westhoughton): The despatches will be laid at once. As regards future operations we are now in communication with General Egerton, but it would, of course, be impossible to publish the detailed action proposed. Further, it is not possible, at present, to calculate the possible expenditure, but there is no intention whatever of undertaking enterprises involving great expense.

MR. DILLON: May I remind the noble Lord that the Secretary of State for War stated that as soon as the full despatches were received from General Manning the Government would resolve upon a policy and communicate it to the House. Can the noble Lord state on what date that will be done?

*LORD STANLEY: I am afraid I cannot answer that Question. The despatches will be laid at once. Communications are now passing between the right hon. Gentleman and General Egerton.

SIR WILFRID LAWSON (Cornwall, Camborne): Is it not possible to tell the country what we are fighting about?

[No answer was returned.]

Army Pensions—Case of John Devine, late 2nd Dragoon Guards.

SIR FREDERICK RASCH (Essex, Chelmsford): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether he has considered the case of John Devine, late 2nd Dragoon Guards, invalided from Abbasieh, March, 1895, totally disabled from accident in the gymnasium, and who has applied for a life pension in consequence and been refused; and, if so, will he state what action, if any, he proposes to take in the matter.

*LORD STANLEY: This man has been awarded a permanent pension from the 3rd ultimo—the date of his last application. From the last medical report on him it appears that his capacity for earning a livelihood is impaired to the extent of one-fourth only.

Woolwich Arsenal Explosion.

SIR CHARLES M'LAREN (Leicestershire, Bosworth): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether any permanent provision will be made by the War Office authorities for the maintenance and education of the widows and children of the men who were killed in the recent accident at Woolwich.

LORD STANLEY: I would refer the hon. Baronet to my reply to the Member for West Newington on the 22nd ultimo, to which I can add nothing.†

The Australian Squadron—Colonial Contribution to Annual Expenditure.

MR. CATHCART WASON (Orkney and Shetland): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty what is the estimated cost of the naval force, to consist of one first, two second, and four third class cruisers, proposed for the Australian squadron; and how far the £200,000 proposed to be contributed by Australia will meet the annual expenditure, taking into account the annual depreciation.

THE SECRETARY TO THE ADMIRALTY (Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER, Belfast, W.): As several questions respecting the organisation and pay of the colonial naval forces are still under consideration, it is not possible as yet to give a complete estimate of the total cost. The proposed contribution of the Commonwealth of Australia is fixed, under Article VIII. of the draft agreement already laid before Parliament, at five-twelfths, and that of New Zealand at one-twelfth of the total annual cost, including a sum equal to 5 per cent. on the prime cost of the ships, but the total payments are not to exceed £200,000 and £40,000 respectively in any one year. It is estimated, therefore, that the Australian contribution will amount to between one-half and one-third of the total cost.

Royal Naval Reserve.

MR. CATHCART WASON: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty if he will state whether the branch of the Royal Naval Reserve consisting of twenty-five officers and 700 men is to be paid out of the £200,000 contribution to be furnished by Australia; and also if the Australian rate of pay to be paid to 1,600 Australians is provided from the same source.

---

† See (4) *Debates*, cxxiv., 59.

MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: These expenses will form part of the total cost of maintenance of the naval force on the Australian Station, and therefore will be defrayed from the colonial contributions to the extent mentioned in my previous reply.

Cretan Consul-General.

MR. JOSEPH WALTON (Yorkshire, W.R., Barnsley): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether a retired member of the diplomatic service is to be appointed Consul-General in Crete; and, if so, whether this course is in accordance with the promises and inducements held out to the British consular officials in the Levant on entering the service.

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (Lord CRANBORNE, Rochester): It is the fact that a former member of the diplomatic service has been appointed Consul-General in Crete. I am not aware of any promises or inducements held out to the Levant service which interfere with the right of the Secretary of State to use his own discretion in filling up any particular post, having regard to the special circumstances of the case. The functions of the Consul-General in Crete are of a very special kind, and are, in fact, mainly of a diplomatic character.

British Investments Abroad and Foreign Investments in Great Britain.

MR. ATHERLEY-JONES (Durham, N.W.): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether he can state the total amounts respectively of investments of British capital in America and France, and of French and American capital in Great Britain; if information thereon be non-existent, whether he will endeavour to procure the same; and whether the amount of British capital invested in America and France is now on the increase or decrease.

*THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER (Mr. RITCHIE, Croydon): As regards investments abroad, the only income which can be identified as coming from any particular country is the portion derived from foreign and colonial Government securities, as shown on page 183 of the last Report of the Inland Revenue. I know of no means of obtaining information as to the investment in Great Britain of French or American capital.

Office of Woods and Forests—Sale to Lord Penrhyn.

MR. CATHCART WASON: I beg to ask the Financial Secretary, as representing the Office of Woods and Forests, if he can state what consideration the Crown received in respect of 6,129 acres of unenclosed land to Lord Penrhyn including sporting and other rights; if any other such dispositions are pending; and, if so, what inquiry will be held with reference to public rights before the same are completed.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY (Mr. ELLIOT, Durham): The Crown received, in the year 1858, £1,739 for its right of soil in the area referred to and for the right of sporting over it, together with some chief rents amounting to £6 9s. 10d. per annum. The sale was made subject to such rights of common, of pasture, or turbary, and to such rights of way, as were legally exercisable over the land. All minerals, including slate and stone, were reserved to the Crown. No other similar dispositions are pending.

Return—Condition of Trade and the People, 1801 to 1902.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES (Lynn Regis): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, can he now say when the Return, Condition of Trade and the People, 1801 to 1902, will be ready.

MR. ELLIOT: The Return will be ready, I hope, before the end of the session.

"Passive Resistance" to the Education Rate.

SIR CHARLES M'LAREN: I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board if his attention has been called to the difficulty of securing the services of auctioneers to sell the goods and chattels belonging to persons refusing to pay the education rate for denominational schools, seized under distress warrants by the overseers; whether he is aware that in many cases goods have been seized of value far in excess of the balance of rate claimed, and are being held without sale by the overseers; and whether he will issue a circular of advice and instructions to the local authorities as to what course they ought to take in these circumstances.

THE SECRETARY TO THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (Mr. GRANT LAWSON, Yorkshire, N.R., Thirsk): Perhaps I may refer the hon. Member to my right hon. friend's replies to Questions on this subject on the 11th June † and 7th inst.‡ The matter is not one with respect to which he is empowered to intervene, and he does not propose to issue any circular of the kind suggested.

Return of British Colonial Import Duties.

MR. ALFRED DAVIES (Carmarthen Boroughs): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade if he will grant the Return relating to British Colonies (Duties on Imports) standing on to-day's Notice Paper.

The Return referred to is as follows:—

British Colonies (Duties on Imports),—Return of the amounts received respectively by British colonies from Duties on Imports in the years 1882, 1892, and the last year published, and their population at those periods.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF TRADE (Mr. GERALD BALFOUR, Leeds, Central): Yes, Sir.

MR. ALFRED DAVIES: Thank you.

Tariff War and the British Shipping Industry.

SIR CHARLES M'LAREN: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether his attention has been called, in view of a war of tariffs with foreign countries, to the possibility of the exclusion of British coasters and tramp vessels from the coasting trade of foreign countries; and whether he will cause full inquiries to be made of every shipbuilding firm in Great Britain as to the effect upon our shipbuilding industry of such exclusion, regard being had to the numbers of men employed, to the wages of shipyard and engine works men, and to the profits on the capital invested in the industry.

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: The interests of British shipping engaged in foreign coasting trade will not be lost sight of, but I do not think the inquiry suggested would throw much additional light on the subject.

Fiscal Inquiry—Basis of Valuation.

SIR CHARLES M'LAREN: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether, in view of the fact that in the statistics prepared by the Board of Trade relating to the exports and imports of this country the values of the exports are taken f.o.b. while the values of the imports are taken c.i.f.; in the statistics now being prepared for the use of the Colonial Secretary, and which the Government have promised to lay before Parliament, he will call attention to this fact and state approximately in separate columns the amount which ought to be deducted from the apparent value of British imports in respect of the commission, freight, and insurance earned by British merchants, shipowners, and underwriters by whom these imports are brought into the country.

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: The basis on which imports and exports are valued will not be lost sight of in any statistics prepared by the Board of Trade. The mode of correction suggested in the last part of the Question does not appear either practicable or calculated to improve the statistics.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES: Could not something be done in the way of showing the amount of freight and insurance if not commission.

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: I think it would be difficult.

---

† See (4) *Debates*, cxxiii., 643.

‡ See (4) *Debates*, cxxiv., 1527.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES put another Question, of which Mr. GERALD BALFOUR asked for notice.

SIR CHARLES M'LAREN: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether his attention has been called to the difference in values per ton of many British exports, such as coal, iron, steel, and machinery, in times of brisk trade as compared with times of slack trade, and to the fact that an apparent decrease in value in such exports is frequently accompanied by an actual increase in the tonnage manufactured in Britain and exported; and whether, in the statistics of the exports and imports which the Government have promised to lay before Parliament, he will base the relation between exports and imports upon the tonnage and not upon the fluctuating market values of each year or period of years.

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: The answer to the first part of the Question is in the affirmative. The point has frequently been called attention to in publications of the Board of Trade. It is always desirable, so far as practicable, to state the course of trade in particular articles in terms of quantity as well as of value, but a comparison of total trade from year to year based on tonnage, would not, I fear, be of much utility, even if practicable, as the whole of our export trade would be dominated by the weight of coal, and of our import trade by a few heavy articles such as grain and timber.

Overhead Electric Wires.

MR. MARKHAM (Nottinghamshire, Mansfield): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether, seeing that the Governments of America, France Germany, Switzerland, Italy, and other countries have, during the last ten years, passed laws regulating the methods of distributing high-tension current by overhead wires, which has resulted in a widely employed use of electricity for industrial purposes, he will say whether there is a single case in Great Britain or Ireland where high-tension current overhead ewires have been installed.

The HON. MEMBER also had the following Questions on the Paper:—

To ask the President of the Board of Trade whether, in view of the continued refusals of the Board of Trade to grant facilities to manufacturers in this country to use high-tension wires, for the alleged reason that these wires might be dangerous to the public, he has taken any steps to ask the Foreign Office to obtain Reports from His Majesty's Consuls abroad as to whether any accidents have been caused by this system of power transmission; and if he has not done so will he communicate with the Foreign Office on the subject with a view of obtaining these Reports.

To ask the President of the Board of Trade whether, on 19th June, 1901, the chief electrical adviser of his Department received from the secretary of the London Chamber of Commerce a memorandum drawn up by a committee of electrical experts in this country stating that the Board of Trade regulations had hitherto practically entirely prohibited overhead wires in the United Kingdom except under such conditions as to make it impracticable; and will he say if this memorandum was brought to his notice, and, if so, when; whether new regulations have been issued in substitution of the old regulations; and whether Regulation No. 33, relating to aerial conductors, has been cancelled.

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: I will reply to the hon. Member's three Questions together. There is no case in Great Britain or Ireland where bare overhead wires have been installed for the transmission of electricity at high voltage for industrial purposes. The Department has not been asked to sanction this method of supply until quite recently, and, as I have already intimated, is ready to give favourable consideration to each application. I have no objection to asking the Foreign Office for copies of the laws of the countries named in the hon. Member's first Question, and for some Reports as suggested in the second Question. In regard to the last Question, the memorandum referred to by the hon. Member was sent in a covering letter addressed to the electrical adviser to the Board of Trade with a request that that officer would receive a deputation. The electrical adviser answered the memorandum himself, and the matter was properly within his cognisance. I have given my personal attention to this question of distributing high-tension current by overhead wires. As I have already informed the hon. Member, the Board of Trade have been, and still are, prepared to consider each case on its merits without reference to any model regulations. In the cases now under consideration, the electrical adviser will prepare special regulations applicable to the circumstances of each case. Model Regulation 33 does not appear to relate to aerial conductors. If the hon. Member refers to Regulation 23, that is not a model regulation which would now be insisted upon in dealing with a high-tension system.

MR. MARKHAM was understood to ask if sanction had not been given in one case on the understanding that if the district affected became an urban district the wire must be taken down.

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: No, Sir; I intimated the question would be reconsidered in five years.

Vacant Prison Commissionership.

MR. MALCOLM (Suffolk, Stowmarket): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when it is proposed to fill up the vacant Prison Commissionership; and whether he will take steps shortly to appoint a civil servant whose knowledge of prison work is based upon practical experience.

THE UNDER SECRETARY TO THE HOME OFFICE (Mr. COCHRANE, Ayrshire, N.): My right hon. friend has nothing to add to the printed answer which he gave last Thursday† to an almost identical Question placed on the Paper by the hon. Member for Berwickshire.

Scottish Local Government Officials—Participation in Political Contests.

MR. CATHCART WASON: I beg to ask the Lord Advocate if, in view of the fact of the sums distributed by the Congested Districts Board, the attention of County Councils will be directed to the inexpediency of allowing their paid servants to act as political agents, returning officers, or taking an active part against any candidates.

*THE LORD ADVOCATE (Mr. A. GRAHAM MURRAY, Buteshire): The reference by the hon. Member to the Congested Districts Board does not seem to have any bearing on the point referred to, and I have nothing to add to the answer given on the 9th instant to the hon. Member for Aberdeen.†

Church of Scotland and the Confession of Faith.

MR. J. F. X. O'BRIEN (Cork): I beg to ask the Lord Advocate whether his attention has been called to a resolution passed by the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland in Edinburgh on the 27th of May last, on the motion of the Rev. Dr. Scott; and, if so, whether, having regard to the contract between the Crown and the Established Church of Scotland relative to the doctrines approved by repeated Acts of Parliament and made obligatory on this Church in the formulary known as the Confession of Faith, he will state whether he proposes to take any, and if so what, steps in this matter.

*MR. A. GRAHAM MURRAY: The matter referred to by the hon. Member does not come within the sphere of my official duty.

Land Loans in Ireland—The Acres, Dromahair.

MR. O'DOWD (Sligo, S.): I beg to ask Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland whether he is aware that Mr. Stewart Gillmour, of Dromahair, County Leitrim, on the 24th July, 1902, swore an affidavit, before the local commissioner for taking oaths, to the effect that he was tenant of lands in Dromahair, known as The Acres, since 1880, although the records show that he only paid 11½d. in rates for land in Dromahair during the previous year, 1901–2; and seeing that, on the strength of that affidavit, Mr. Gillmour has obtained an advance of £480 from the

---

† See Page 851.

† See Page 156.

Land Commission for the purchase of this land, whether he will arrange for a sworn inquiry to be held, at which the Land Commission inspector who inspected these lands will be required to give evidence, with the object of having this matter cleared up.

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL FOR IRELAND (Mr. ATKINSON, Londonderry, N.): I have no power to direct the inquiry suggested, nor, so far as I have been able to ascertain, has there been anything whatever criminal in Mr. Gillmour's conduct. I beg to refer the hon. Member to my reply to his previous Question of the 29th June on the same subject.†

Sneem Courthouse.

MR. BOLAND (Kerry, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, can he state on what grounds permission to inspect the Courthouse at Sneem was refused by the petty sessions clerk to the hon. Member for South Kerry and Mr. John Sheehan, a local justice, twelve months ago, when it was stated that the courthouse was in a bad state of repair.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND (Mr. WYNDHAM, Dover): The petty sessions clerk withheld permission on that occasion because he had not the authority of the justices in petty sessions.

MR. FLAVIN (Kerry, N.): Then do I understand the right hon. Gentleman to lay it down that a magistrate has no right to enter into the Courthouse in which he adjudicates?

MR. WYNDHAM: If the hon. Member will read my Answer he will see I laid down nothing of the kind.

MR. BOLAND: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that the magistrates sitting at Sneem petty sessions, county Kerry, unanimously adjourned the Court in June and July owing to the Courthouse being in an insanitary condition and in such a bad state of repair as to be a danger to the magistrates sitting therein; whether he is aware that the landlord receives £10 rent per annum from the Kerry County Council; and whether steps will be taken to secure that the Courthouse be put into a proper state of repair.

MR. WYNDHAM: The landlord is quite willing, I understand, to put the Courthouse into a proper state of repair, but there is a dispute between him and the County Council as to the terms of the lease.

Irish National Schools—Oral Examinations in Irish.

MR. THOMAS O'DONNELL (Kerry, W.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland why oral examinations in Irish of pupils in national schools have not been held for months after the annual examinations; whether, in order to have this work satisfactorily done, he will suggest the appointment of additional examiners in Irish.

MR. WYNDHAM: Additional inspectors have been appointed, and the examinations of all schools will shortly be completed.

Disease amongst Bees in Ireland.

MR. BOLAND: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is now in a position to say what legislative steps he proposes to take in order to secure the stamping out of foul brood disease amongst bees in Ireland in view of its spread.

MR. WYNDHAM: I am afraid I cannot at present supplement my answer to the hon. Member's previous Question of the 23rd June on this subject.† Legislation this session is impracticable.

Kerry and the Congested Districts Board.

MR. THOMAS O'DONNELL: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been directed to resolutions passed at public meetings held in Tralee, at which the clergy, county councillors, and district councillors attended, protesting against the inaction of the Board in Kerry, and demanding the co-option of a representative man from Kerry on the

---

† See (4) *Debates*, cxxiv., 810.

† See (4) *Debates*, cxxiv., 265.

Board; and, if so, will he say what action he proposes to take in the matter.

I beg also to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether, in the event of a vacancy occurring in the membership of the Congested Districts Board, selection will be made of one who is resident in Kerry or is at least thoroughly acquainted with the problems and needs of that county.

MR. WYNDHAM: The answers to the first and second inquiries are in the affirmative. I cannot make any announcement in respect to a future appointment until a vacancy occurs.

MR. EDWARD BARRY (Cork County, S.): Cannot you appoint the Bishop of Ross to represent the whole of the South of Ireland?

MR. WYNDHAM: This question was raised during the debates on the Land Bill, and attention was called to the fact that Kerry was unrepresented. But I cannot possibly go beyond the answer I have given.

Cost of Extra Police in Sligo.

MR. O'DOWD: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that the Government have applied to the Sligo County Council for the sum of £1,500 to cover the cost of extra police stationed in the southern division of that county during the past two years; and whether, in view of the fact that it was owing to the action of the grand jury and against the protests of the County Council this expenditure has been incurred, he will devise some means by which the ratepayers may be relieved from the payment of this tax.

MR. WYNDHAM: There is no power to relieve the county of the charge in question. The expenditure was not incurred by any action on the part of the grand jury.

Pollution of the Liffey.

MR. NANNETTI (Dublin, College Green): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been drawn to the fact of the continuous poisoning of fish in the waters of the River Liffey, caused by poisonous fluid being allowed to be discharged into the river; whether the attention of the Board of Conservators has been called to this fact; and what steps, if any, he proposes to take to put a stop to the practice complained of, and save from destruction these waters as a salmon and trout river.

MR. WYNDHAM: An analysis of the contaminated water was recently made, but nothing injurious to fish was found. The Department of Agriculture has instituted fresh inquiries in respect of a case of alleged poisoning of fish by sewage contamination within the past few days.

Meath Rate Collector.

*MR. KENNEDY (Westmeath, N.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that, in consequence of representations from the Local Government Board as to the necessity of taking steps to compel the rate collectors to use greater diligence in the lodgment of rates and otherwise to comply with the regulations of that Board, the County Council of Meath, after investigation by its Finance Committee, suspended one of the collectors unanimously early this year; that the Board removed the suspension to enable this officer to complete his current collection, intimating that on its completion it would be open to the Council to again suspend him, which the Council did, whereupon the Local Government Board again removed his suspension; and whether, seeing that the County Council has intimated its inability to maintain official discipline in consequence of the Local Government Board's action, he will direct the Local Government Board to reconsider its decision.

MR. WYNDHAM: The facts are substantially as stated. But I am making further inquiry into certain features of this case, and shall be obliged if the hon. Member will repeat his Question next week.

River Shannon Fisheries.

MR. JOYCE (Limerick): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he can state how much money has been paid since the year 1834 by the Board of Works, either as purchase or compensation, to fishery owners on the River Shannon; whether the Board of Works have become by this means the owners of a great portion of said river; and, if so, will those claims be upheld so that bogus claims to fishery rights may not be entertained during the purchase of land adjoining that river under the new Land Bill.

MR. WYNDHAM: Over £16,000. The Commissioners are owners of the eel fisheries from Lough Allen to Castleconnell. They have no intention of allowing other persons to claim fishing rights to which they are entitled.

Irish Equivalent Grant.

MR. T. M. HEALY (Louth, N.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether, in the computation of the amount of the Equivalent Grant payable to Ireland and Scotland on the passing of the English Education Act, 1902, the population of London (which city is being dealt with in a separate measure) was omitted or was included by the Treasury.

MR. WYNDHAM: In calculating the amount of the Irish Equivalent Grant, the population of London was taken into account.

Gordon-Bennett Race—Destruction of Films in the Post.

MR. NANNETTI: I beg to ask the Postmaster-General whether his attention has been drawn to the complaint of the directors of the Empire Palace Theatre Company, Dublin, as to the loss or destruction of a negative of the speed trials held in connection with the Gordon-Bennett race which was handed in at the College Green Office, Dublin, for transmission to London; and, if so, will he state under what authority and circumstances was the letter packet opened subsequent to the removal of its outer covering in the post office, notwithstanding the precautionary open memorandum wrapped around the box containing the negatives inside the outer covering, and what compensation do the postal authorities intend to offer the Empire Palace Theatre Company, Dublin, for the loss sustained.

THE POSTMASTER-GENERAL (Mr. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN, Worcestershire, E.): My attention has been called to the case referred to. I find that the packet in question reached the Returned Letter Office in London without the address label, and also without the outer wrapper which the sender states bore the address. I have been unable to ascertain how this outer wrapper became detached in transit; but the packet bears indications of having been very insecurely fastened. It was opened in ordinary course for the purpose of ascertaining the address of the sender, but I regret that the officer who dealt with it also opened the box containing the films without suspecting the nature of the contents. The packet was sent by letter post unregistered, and I am not therefore in a position to pay compensation for the damage.

MR. NANNETTI: Will the right hon. Gentleman inquire whether, when the packet was handed in, it did not bear instructions that it was not to be opened except in a dark room?

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: I have said so, but unfortunately the outer covering bearing that instruction became detached and the instruction was not on the parcel when it reached the hands of the officer who dealt with it. I have looked into the matter personally and seen the package.

Portarlington Postal Assistant.

*MR. DELANY (Queen's County, Ossory): I beg to ask the Postmaster-General whether he will state what were the conditions of service which precluded payment of a gratuity to Miss Blanc, late assistant Portarlington Post Office, in view of the fact that this official had twenty-eight years service, gave her whole time to her duties, and that the remuneration paid her came out of moneys voted by Parliament.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: Miss Blanc was paid out of an allowance made to the Postmaster of Portarlington, and was not in the service of the Department. Persons employed in this capacity are not entitled to a gratuity on retirement, and I have no power whatever to grant either a pension or a gratuity. That rests with the Treasury, and in such a case as this they also have no power to grant one or the other.

*MR. DELANY: On what authority does the right hon. Gentleman make the statement that Miss Blanc was retired "because no longer capable of discharging her duties efficiently?"

MR. SPEAKER: Order, order! The hon. Member cannot argue the matter.

Imperial Defence.

MR. CATHCART WASON: I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury if he will furnish an approximate account of the total cost of Imperial Defence, including India and the Crown Colonies, and excluding the self-governing Colonies; also the total cost, approximately, of the Diplomatic and Consular Service to Great Britain and Ireland.

THE PRIME MINISTER AND FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Mr. A. J. BALFOUR, Manchester, E.): I am not able to give this information, but if the hon. Member will repeat the Question later on I will inquire what can be done.

Colonial Competition with British Industries.

MR. HUMPHREYS-OWEN (Montgomeryshire): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether his attention has been called to the fact that the Government of Canada has given bounties on lead, and that of New Zealand is about to organise the sale of New Zealand mutton in competition with English mutton; and, if so, whether the Government will take measures to protect British producers of lead and mutton against this unfair competition, in the same manner as they have protected the West Indian sugar planters.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I have no official information on the matters to which the hon. Gentleman refers in his Question.

Fiscal Inquiry—Pay of Government Employees.

MR. WEIR (Ross and Cromarty): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether the proposed inquiry into the fiscal policy of the country will include the consideration of such higher pay to all persons employed under Government as will meet the higher price of food and other articles.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I admire the hon. Gentleman's thirst for information, but he really wishes to have every subject in which he is interested hitched on to the inquiry. I do not think that would be an expedient course.

MR. WEIR: Is not the right hon. Gentleman aware that the Colonial Secretary has stated that food will be dearer and wages higher?

MR. FLAVIN: Better begin by increasing the wages of Cabinet Ministers.

Fiscal Returns

MR. LOUGH (Islington, W.): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether, in connection with the Fiscal Inquiry, the statistical departments of the Board of Trade or the Customs House have been required to furnish any Returns this year different from and in excess of those usually supplied and published; and whether the Government can place the forms of any such Returns on the Order Paper of the House of Commons.

SIR CHARLES M'LAREN: I beg also to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether, in the inquiry which is being conducted as to our fiscal relations with the colonies and foreign countries, any advice or information is being required from the Treasury, or whether the figures which have been asked for are being prepared entirely by the Board of Trade.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: It would be desirable for the House to see the Returns which are in course of preparation. I have not the slightest doubt that there will be valuable suggestions made to supplement these Returns, and I think it will be desirable to wait until they are put into the hands of Members before any further suggestions are made.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN (Stirling Burghs): Will they be in the hands of Members any considerable time before the end of this session; otherwise, what opportunity shall we have of obtaining this additional information?

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: Hon. Members will retain the power of reading, thinking, and inwardly digesting, even when the House is up.

Sir H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: But not of asking and getting.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: I am quite ready to consider any suggestions that are made, whether the House is sitting or not.

Mr. LOUGH: Can the Returns be placed on the Order Paper of the House.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: I do not think that is very desirable.

Sir CHARLES M'LAREN: The right hon. Gentleman has not answered my Question.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: I do not see that at this stage of the proceedings anybody is concerned as to the particular methods by which any figures we may be able to lay before the House are being collected. If they prove to be insufficient or unsatisfactory, we shall be glad to supplement them. We are doing our best to make the information we are supplying satisfactory.

Sir CHARLES M'LAREN: Will the right hon. Gentleman lay on the Table the exact terms of reference to the Departments?

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: No, Sir; the hon. Gentleman is most unreasonable. Perhaps he is not alone in that. Why should a Cabinet inquiry of this kind be conducted on formal lines which are quite appropriate to a Royal Commission or a Committee of this House, but which would be most inappropriate and inconvenient with regard to an investigation such as we are conducting?

Sir H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: Is not the reply to the right hon. Gentleman this—that the inquiry is being conducted, not for the benefit of the Cabinet, but for the benefit of the whole country?

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: Yes, Sir, I trust the whole country will benefit by the inquiry; but in the meanwhile it is an inquiry by the Cabinet for the Cabinet.

Administration of Ecclesiastical Funds—Poverty of the Clergy.

Mr. HUMPHREYS-OWEN: I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury, whether, having regard to the poverty of many of the clergy of the Established Church of England and Wales, and the importance of making adequate provision for the maintenance of the parochial ministry, His Majesty's Government will advise the early appointment of a Royal Commission to inquire into the present distribution and administration of ecclesiastical funds and properties, the necessary or possible measure of re-adjustment of episcopal and other ecclesiastical endowments, together with methods of securing such re-adjustment, and into other schemes for benefiting the pecuniary condition of the clergy; and to report thereon without delay.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: I think this Question is substantially in agreement with the Question which the hon. Member put last year. I then replied that I entirely agreed with him about the poverty of the clergy, but I could not assent to the appointment of the Royal Commission. Perhaps I may remind the hon. Gentleman that the work of diminishing this evil is being actively carried on by the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, and, in the case of very small livings, by Queen Anne's Bounty. If the hon. Member will look at the Report he will see how considerable are the endowments contributed by the Ecclesiastical Commissioners and how substantial are the amounts contributed from private sources.

Sir HENRY FOWLER (Wolverhampton, E.): May I ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether, after what he has just said, he proposes to proceed with the Ecclesiastical Commissioners Bill, which virtually proposes to take away from what is available for the augmentation of small livings a capital sum of £30,000 or £40,000 in order to increase the staff of the Ecclesiastical Commission, which is already one of the most expensive departments of the State ?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I think it is important to proceed with that Bill.

Sugar Imports.

MR. LOUGH: I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether he can now announce for the guidance of sugar importers whether the usual August contracts for sugars from Austria and Hungary can be entered into this year; and whether, seeing that exporters from those countries can make delivery late in the month, the Government will undertake that no difficulties will be placed in the way of such sugars being landed under any provision of the Sugar Convention Bill.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: There is nothing in the Convention, or in any provision of the Sugar Convention Bill, that can give rise, as far as I know, to any impediment to the importation of sugar from Austria or Hungary in existing circumstances, either now or after the Convention comes into force on 1st September, provided the sugar be accompanied by such certificate as to origin as may be prescribed.

MR. LOUGH: Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that the Convention has condemned the system which existed in Austria and Hungary and the matter has not been cleared up in recent Papers.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I hope it will be cleared up by the Answer which I have just given to the House, which I believe to be accurate.

Shipping Agreements

MR. GIBSON BOWLES: I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury, have His Majesty's Government now completed the agreement they had come to on 30th September, 1902, with the American International Mercantile Marine Association, and have they completed the Agreement with the Cunard Company for subsidies to those two bodies; and in view of the delays that have occurred, can he now undertake that these agreements shall be laid upon the Table of this House, and an adequate opportunity be afforded for their discussion within any definite time.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: The first of the agreements mentioned by the hon. Member is not yet finally settled. The second only awaits the approval of the shareholders of the Cunard Company, who have to be consulted as to the necessary changes in the Articles of Association. I bear in mind the pledge, which I have more than once given, that an opportunity shall be given for discussion.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES: Cannot the right hon. Gentleman now state any definite time ?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I am afraid not. The Government are only one of the parties to negotiations, and we cannot fix the time when these negotiations are likely to be brought to a successful issue.

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON Dundee): In what form will the right hon. Gentleman take the opinion of the House ?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I cannot say without further consideration, but I do not think there should be any difficulty in finding a proper method of doing so.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: Can the right hon. Gentleman inform the House what will be the business on the unassigned days of this week ?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: To-morrow the Irish Land Bill stands for Third Reading, as the first order. We shall then take the Committee Resolution on the Military Loans Bill, and next in order the Scotch Licensing Bill, the Employment of Children Bill, and Naval Works (Committee). That will be the order on the Order Paper. On Wednesday I shall put down the Third Reading of the London (Education) Bill, and further stages of Bills now advanced after that; and on Thursday, the Foreign Office Vote and Class 5. On Friday I shall probably take the Military Loans Bill Second Reading, and I shall put next in order the South African Loans Bill, Second Reading. I hope the House will regard that as a provisional suggestion, and not as a specific pledge.

MR. BRYCE (Aberdeen, S.): Was it not intimated that the South African Loans Bill would be the first order when it came on?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: If any promise of that kind was made it will be fulfilled. I have forgotten if I gave any pledge.

MR. BRYCE: I am sure it will be the general feeling that it should be made the first order.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES: May I ask the right hon. Gentleman whether any final arrangement has been made as to the Second Reading of the Sugar Convention Bill and the Irish Development Grant Bill.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I can give no forecast as regards the Irish Development Grant Bill, but I hope to take the Second Reading of the Sugar Convention Bill early next week.

POOR PRISONERS' DEFENCE BILL.

Reported, from the Select Committee, with Minutes of Evidence:

Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 264.]

Bill, as amended, re-committed to a Committee of the whole House for Friday, and to be printed. [Bill 285.]

PATRIOTIC FUND.

MR. GALLOWAY (Manchester, S. W.): I wish to ask whether this Bill has not been put down by inadvertence to-day, inasmuch as this is the day allotted to Supply, and under Standing Orders no business other than Supply can be taken before midnight. If my hon. friend brings in this Bill will not the day cease to be a day allotted to Supply?

*MR. SPEAKER: Clearly the Standing Order does not mean that nothing shall be done except Supply before midnight, otherwise we could not take Questions and unopposed Returns and other business of that nature. The word business as quoted from the Standing Order means Orders of the Day and notices of Motion and such Motions as are usually put down with the Orders of the Day. It does not include a Motion like this taken at the commencement of public business.

THE CIVIL LORD OF THE ADMIRALTY (Mr. PRETYMAN, Suffolk, Woodbridge): In asking leave to introduce a Bill to reorganise the administration of the Patriotic Fund, I may say at once I do not propose to detain the House at any length, as I am proceeding under what is known as the Ten Minutes Rule. The object of the Bill is to reconstitute the body which has the administration of funds subscribed to provide for the widows, children, and other dependents of those who lost their lives in the service of the Crown. Those funds since 1854 have been administered by the Royal Patriotic Commission. The powers of the Commission have been modified and extended since that date, and in the interval it has accumulated a very considerable property, including an invested sum of £1,250,000. It also has a valuable property at Clapham. The constitution of the Commission is of a dual character, and it is in no sense popular. It consists of a number of *ex-officio* members and of members appointed by the Crown for life, and therefore it cannot be said to be in general touch with the country. Mainly on that account, I believe, there has been very considerable public dissatisfaction with the administration of the funds by the Patriotic Commissioners I would not for a moment attempt to lay down whether that dissatisfaction is justifiable or not; but I think it will be agreed that the main cause of the dissatisfaction is what I think may be justly called the want of sympathy between the country and the Commission, whose operations and administration are of a rather secret character. In the administration of a large fund of this character it is impossible to satisfy all the allottees. Complaints are made in public in consequence, while the answers given by the Patriotic Commissioners do not reach the ears of the public. At the same time, it is only right to say that no definite complaint or accusation has ever really been brought home to the Patriotic Commissioners, and the Joint Committee presided over by Lord James, which recently investigated the question, spoke most highly of the financial administration of the Commissioners. I think the House will most gladly recognise the amount of unselfish work which the Commissioners have given to the carrying out of their duties, and also the zeal and ability with which the Duke of Cambridge has presided over the proceedings of the Commission. When the question was first taken up, His Royal Highness wrote to the Prime Minister to say that the Commissioners welcomed inquiry, and no question of their charter would be allowed to stand in the way of any action that might be decided upon, and the Prime Minister admitted —and the House will agree with him— that the country owed a great debt of gratitude to those who had administered the fund. If the present Bill is accepted by the House, I hope it will be in a spirit of recognition of that debt of gratitude, and as not implying any slight whatever upon the Commissioners.

The public interest in this question was brought to a head by the outbreak of the South African War—an interest which was very largely focussed and expressed by the hon. Member for Devonport, who has taken a continuous interest in the question, has asked many questions on it, and was a member of the Committee on whose Report the Bill is founded. By the interest he has displayed, both in the legislative and administrative conduct of the question, the hon. Member has entitled himself to the confidence of the country and of the House. Owing to the war, several funds were started, mainly by great organs of the Press, the *Daily Telegraph*, the *Scotsman*, and the *Daily Mail*, and, public attention having thus been drawn to the existing discontent, a Committee presided over by Mr. Justice Henn Collins was appointed to examine into the administration of the funds, and this was followed by the Joint Committee, of which Lord James was the Chairman. Mr. Justice Henn Collins's Committee recommended that a State pension should be granted, and, acting on that, a State pension of 5s. to widows, with an extra sum for each child, was granted. But naturally there was overlapping between the different funds, and consequently another inquiry was decided upon. Lord James's Committee recommended that there should be two Pension Boards formed—one for the Army and one for the Navy—and that these Boards should administer the State pensions and all locally subscribed funds, as well as the property of the Patriotic Commission. But when the question came to be investigated it was not considered desirable to create these two official Pension Boards. It was thought better to leave the administration of the State pensions in the hands of the official bodies of the Admiralty and the War Office, who have the necessary machinery and all the information requisite for their administration, and to create one body which shall be in close touch with both the Admiralty and the War Office, but which shall at the same time contain such an element of popular representation as will enable it to command the confidence of the public. We believe this plan will be simpler than that recommended by the Joint Committee, and that it will tend to facilitate administration and economy if we have the Admiralty and the War Office in coordination with this one body instead of having two Pension Boards. On this principle the Bill proposes to create a single body——

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, Order! I think the hon. Member is exceeding the usual limit of time—ten minutes.

MR. PRETYMAN: I wish to explain the Bill, and was not aware there was any Rule of ten minutes.

*MR. SPEAKER: A brief statement is allowed, and ten minutes is generally considered to be the limit.

MR. PRETYMAN: Am I not to make any explanation of the Bill at all, Sir?

*MR. SPEAKER: If the hon. Member can conclude in a minute or two, but not more than that.

MR. PRETYMAN: I imagine this is a thing which interests the House. The Bill creates a single body which will be called the Royal Patriotic Fund Corporation. That body will be constituted of six members appointed by the Crown, of whom one will be the President; then there will be the Chairman of every County Council throughout Great Britain and Ireland, every Lord Mayor and Mayor of county boroughs in England and Ireland, and the Lord Provosts and Provosts of towns of over 20,000 inhabitants in Scotland. In addition this body will co-opt six further members, and there will be up to seven members also co-opted to represent any local funds which are specially created.

AN HON. MEMBER: Where will they meet?

MR. PRETYMAN said the corporation itself would meet once in every year; the official members would be appointed for three-year terms only, and would retire at the end of the three years. In the first instance, the twelve appointed members would be all appointed by the Crown, as it was evidently impossible to co-opt members until the body was created. After the first term of three years——

MR. GIBSON BOWLES (Lynn Regis): Mr. Speaker, the hon. Member is exceeding the limits allowed by the Rule.

*MR. SPEAKER: If the Bill requires an elaborate explanation before the particulars are given, and then the particulars are to be gone into in detail, it ought not to be introduced under this Rule.

MR. PRETYMAN said the corporation would appoint an executive committee, who would do the business of the corporation. He hoped the Bill would be in the hands of the hon. Members to-morrow morning. He might say that if this Bill were regarded as of a contentious character it could not pass this session, but he trusted it might meet with general approval.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That leave be given to bring in a Bill to reorganise the administration of the Patriotic Fund."—(*Mr. Pretyman.*)

MR. KEARLEY (Devonport) thought the House would agree that a Bill so complicated should not be introduced under the Ten Minutes Rule, but, at the same time, he hoped hon. Members would realise the great necessity of passing a Bill of this character. He understood that the new body would differ in a marked degree from the old, and would be more democratic in character. Any new body, unless it had the public confidence, was bound to fail, and the only way to obtain that confidence was to administer the funds in accordance with the wishes of those who supplied them. The money which had been subscribed in past years had been subscribed with the idea that it should by degrees be completely exhausted on behalf of those for whom it was intended, but that had not been the policy of the Patriotic Commission, who had endeavoured to husband or hoard their resources.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill ordered to be brought in by Mr. Pretyman and Mr. Arnold-Forster.

PATRIOTIC FUND BILL.

To reorganise the administration of the Patriotic Fund, presented accordingly, and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Monday next, and to be printed. [Bill 286.]

SUPPLY.

[18TH ALLOTTED DAY.]

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[MR. J. W. LOWTHER (Cumberland, Penrith) in the Chair.]

CIVIL SERVICES AND REVENUE DEPARTMENTS ESTIMATES, 1903-4.

CLASS IV.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a sum not exceeding £617,101, be granted to His Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1904, for the Expenses of the Commissioners of National Education in Ireland, including a Grant in Aid of the Teachers Pension Fund, Ireland."

MR. T. W. RUSSELL (Tyrone, S.) called attention to the state and situation of some of the buildings of the Marlborough Street Training College, Dublin. There were four colleges—three of them were denominational, and one was a Government concern and was undenominational. The denominational colleges in 1891 were first put on a proper footing and endowed by Parliament. They were then all freehold, and large grants were made by which the freeholds were granted to the denominations. A very large sum of money, something like £80,000, was spent on the denominational colleges at the time, but when they came to the undenominational college it was a different thing altogether. The undenominational and Government buildings were in a locality part of which was haunted by some of the worst characters of the city, from whom blasphemous and immoral language was heard. This, surely was not a fit residence for students who would become teachers in national schools. A deputation waited on the Chief Secretary in 1901 with regard to the matter, and the Chief Secretary practically supported their demand. In 1902 the Treasury expressed regret at being unable, in consequence of the pressure on the finances of the country, to place the money on the Votes, but in 1903 a wholly different position was taken up, and the Treasury then stated that they had given careful consideration to the application, but had not been convinced that such expenditure was necessitated by the actual condition of the college, and that, even if it were otherwise, the danger of the precedent would be so great that they were not prepared to take the matter up. In view of the facts which he had stated, he submitted that the Chief Secretary ought again to approach the Treasury, declaring that these students were housed in insanitary dwellings in the centre of an immoral district. That was not a fit position in which to place the men and women who in the future would be the national teachers of Ireland. Without going into the question of denominationalism, he contended that the college in Marlborough Street had a right to be put in a position of equality with the denominational colleges.

MR. THOMAS O'DONNELL (Kerry, W.) desired, as one who had spent two years in the college referred to, to associate himself with the remarks of the hon. Member for South Tyrone. The neighbourhood was certainly not a proper one in which to train those who had to discharge the all-important national duty of educating the boys and girls of the country. The college, which had done excellent work in the past, was undenominational; it might almost be called a national institution. Students of all classes and creeds had gathered there, and had found that, though they might differ politically and theologically, they could work together in the great national work of improving the condition of the country. He believed that if Irishmen could only meet together more, and discuss in an intelligent and reasonable manner various subjects which now engendered heat, they would soon rise above many of the prejudices which tended to injure the character of the country. The question of the better training of teachers was a very large one. The people of Ireland were hoping soon to have placed before them a great educational scheme which would enable the children of the peasantry to pass from the national school, through the intermediate institution to the University. In such a scheme—and until it was established Ireland would never advance to the position warranted by the genius and intelligence of her sons—one of the most important features would be the establishment of the best means of training the men into whose hands would be placed the teaching of 90 per cent. of the children of the country, and no system would yield the best results which did not bring the young men into some connection with the University. It was not to the benefit of education that teachers should be trained Catholics and Protestants separately; they ought to be brought into touch with the higher thought, wider views and greater tolerance afforded by the University. His idea would be to have a great national University, to which all classes in the country could go without any sacrifice of principle and secure the highest education possible; and in such a University special provision should be made for the training of teachers.

With regard to the general question of education in Ireland it was felt that the present system had lamentably failed; instead of enabling those who were taught to advance in trade and commerce its result had been to turn Irishmen away from all knowledge of or interest in their own country. The Board in Dublin consisted of twenty men—ten Catholics and ten Protestants—selected with little or no regard to their qualifications for the office. Too many had been selected because they were political partisans. That was not a proper way in which to form a Board by which the education of a country was to be administered. The members were not representative of the people; they were not responsible to or officially represented in Parliament; and they were able to disregard the demands of those entitled to speak for the educational needs of the country. He desired to make a direct attack on the National Board, who, he contended, had done little or nothing during the sixty years of their existence for the real benefit of education. This National Board had had a free hand with full powers to do as they pleased two or three years ago, but after the Commission had sat and various discussions taken place in this House, they found that at last they must change the old system in order to keep abreast of the times. When the merest smattering of science was introduced where had they to go for the men to teach science? They had to come across to England and Scotland. He blamed the men of the past whose system was so utterly wanting that no men were trained in Ireland capable of taking up these positions. It was a disgrace to the educational institutions in Ireland that a few years ago when the technical department was established they had to go across to Scotland and England in order to find men to fill the highly salaried positions in that department. That was a proof that those institutions had totally and wholly neglected the work placed in their charge. There was not in England, Scotland, Canada, America, Germany, France, or any country in the world, a system of education administered like the Irish system. Many members of the National Board only came to the meetings whenever there was a "job" on, in order to vote their men to these positions. Until some change was made which would place the education of Irish children in the hands of the Irish people, the Irish child would never make any progress. He hoped the National Board would very soon cease to mismanage the work of Irish education. He trusted the Chief Secretary for Ireland would see that the day had passed when such Boards should be entrusted with important work like the education of the Irish children.

With regard to education itself, how were they to get in Ireland a system of education which would enable the child of the peasant to take its place in the life of the country. How were they to get a system which would enable Irish children to come forward in the industrial and commercial world to compete with Englishmen, Scotchmen, Germans, and Americans? How were they to raise the Irish peasant child from the position in which a bad system of education had placed him? They must first of all place the management of the educational system in the hands of the people themselves. It was useless to his mind to bring forward systems of education if they had not at the same time a well trained, a highly qualified, and a well paid body of men to administer that system. By this arrangement alone could they secure that Irish boys and girls should rise in the future to that eminence to which he thought their natural ability and genius entitled them. He only wished on this occasion to deal with the main points and policy of the educational system, leaving the details for the present. He had already suggested that it would be absolutely essential if they wished to improve the educational system of Ireland to give the future Irish teachers an opportunity of being trained in contact with University men where their education would be improved, and when they would become better citizens. He wished to impress upon the Chief Secretary that it was absolutely necessary that the men in whose hands would be placed the daily lives of half a million of Irish children ought to have everything that was possible done for them in order to give them a good education. They had already discussed the subject of the National Board. He had that day put a Question to the Chief Secretary in reference to the delay in regard to the oral examinations in Irish as compared with the written examinations, and he was glad that the right hon. Gentleman had given him a satisfactory reply. An attempt was made in regard to Colonel Moore's school to prevent the teachers being paid the salaries due to them for the year's work.

Colonel Moore said that 600 pupils had been attending the evening school and great enthusiasm was aroused in the work. Here was the one thing which brightened the lives of young children and made their evenings more entertaining, and yet the National Board tried by every means in its power to check such a system and refused to pay the salaries of the teachers. He hoped the Board would never again take up the absurd and untenable position which they took up in regard to this matter.

He wished to draw the attention of the Chief Secretary for Ireland to a few important matters which he hoped would tend to improve the educational life of the children in Ireland. He would give some striking extracts from the Irish inspector's reports dealing with the staffing of the Irish schools, heating, sanitary accommodation, and other matters, and when the right hon. Gentleman heard them, he thought he would agree that a strong case had been made out for doing something to improve the conditions which existed at the present time. Mr. Downing, chief inspector, reports—

> "(1) Cabins of the rudest type are still to be met with as the habitations of national schools. There remain numerous cases of uncomfortable school houses and insanitary and inadequate premises.
>
> "(2) Complaints are frequently made of the discomfort of school rooms in winter from want of proper heating.
>
> "(3) The entire absence of a playground is a common defect."

Those who had seen the Irish child coming barefooted into a school with an earthen floor, broken windows and skylight, where the child had to stand shivering the whole day long, knew the necessity for something being done immediately. How was it possible that such a child could give his attention to educational work. It was an absolute waste of time to attend school under such conditions. It was cruelty that a little Irish boy should be subjected to such conditions, which would be a disgrace even to a barbarous nation. It would be a disgrace to those who were sent to the House of Commons to discharge national work if they did not do everything in their power to make the conditions under which Irish boys spent their tender years better and more favourable than they were at the present time. Mr. Dalton says—

> "(1) There are no local organisations, no funds, and consequently no regular arrangements for the periodical and timely renovation of the large majority of school houses.
>
> "(2) No regular provision is made for the heating of the schools during winter. I was surprised and pained during the last three months to witness the total disregard of the most elementary claims of the health and comfort of the children that prevails in this respect. During the month of October last I visited over sixty schools of the district, and everyone knows that the weather throughout the month was exceptionally wet and inclement, yet, in the schools visited incidentally, I came on only three that had got fires."

What did hon. Members think of only three schools out of sixty having fires on a bitter cold winter's day. They might spend money on education and new systems for the training of teachers, but under the conditions he had mentioned education was impossible. He had numerous other extracts from the reports of inspectors, who came into contact with the lives of the children, and almost all referred to the entire absence of proper sanitary accommodation. Dr. Moran stated that—

> "The out offices, instead of being an advantage, are in some instances a dangerous source of disease and death."

This was a condition of things that ought not to prevail in connection with the Irish educational system, and he trusted that the Chief Secretary would consider these matters now that he had money at his disposal which could be devoted to Irish national education.

England was last year voted £1,400,000 additional for improving the education of the children of the country. Scotland, as a result, without any trouble got a further grant of £212,000, and Ireland

£185,000. Already a considerable portion of that had been allocated. He did not wish to say one word offensive of Trinity College, Dublin, but it had been pretty well looked after in the past. Fancy a great institution like Trinity College, with all its vast resources, coming forward and, with beggarly words on its lips, claiming money that ought to go to improve the conditions he had described! It claimed that £5,000 more should go to the outdoor relief, in the matter of education, of the aristocrats who attended Trinity, while the country was denied a national University. He must say that Trinity College had failed in its duty as an Irish educational institution. When a technical department was established two or three years ago, those at the head of the College had to go all over the world looking for men to do the very ordinary work of managing the department. Fancy Germany going over to America or England to look for men in that way when starting a new department! Trinity had been held up as a University with an honourable educational record. It had done nothing whatever to increase the industry and commerce of the country, or to raise the national life. It might have afforded a few aristocrats an opportunity of getting their livings in various parts of the British Empire, but, outside that, it had done nothing to raise the national life. It was an absolute blank and nullity in the country. With regard to the equivalent grant due to Ireland, it might be said that they wanted £210,000 to bring the education of Ireland up to a proper standard. If he were to go into details, he should say that they wanted not only £210,000 but £500,000, to place Irish education on a proper footing. He thought he was right in saying that the Education Department in Dublin had already sent in estimates for £300,000. In the face of that fact, and what had been said by inspectors, teachers, and managers of schools, he thought it would be admitted that the larger sum which he mentioned would be wanted. He had received numerous letters from managers of schools. One of his correspondents had urged him to endeavour to get an equivalent grant for primary education, which would meet present wants. The wants were principally two—in the first place to get the average attendance, which qualified for an assistant, reduced to fifty, and secondly to have the schools vested in trustees, kept in repair by the Commissioners, and supplied with fuel in the winter. The custom of bringing a sod of turf under the arm was barbarous. Many of the schools would go to ruin unless they were kept up by the National Board. The people were too poor to contribute to their maintenance. Many of the letters he received demanded that this money should be devoted to proper teaching, and to improving the sanitary conditions of the schools.

Contrasting the position in England with that of Ireland, he pointed out that in England the cost per pupil in average attendance was £3 0s. 2d., apart from the £1,400,000 voted last year. In London it was £4 0s. 5½d. per pupil in average attendance, while in Ireland it was £2 7s. per pupil. He thought every Member must agree that these figures showed the great necessity that existed for doing something to improve the condition of the Irish schools. He thought that the Chief Secretary had admitted that it was necessary to do something in regard to reducing the average attendance to fifty. The managers of schools throughout Ireland, and the teachers, had unanimously demanded this, and he thought the National Board had also demanded it. The only question remaining was that of money. Now there was money at the disposal of the Chief Secretary, and he thought the right hon. Gentleman could not possibly say that so important a question should be deferred further. The head of the Irish Education Department had stated that it was absolutely impossible for any one teacher to do really effective work with an average attendance of sixty pupils. That average attendance would often mean a maximum attendance of ninety. These were divided into six, seven, or eight grades, and it was absolutely impossible for a teacher to devote his time to the whole of the children. It was necessary that a second teacher should be appointed when there was an average attendance of fifty pupils. In England they did not require more than an average attendance of fifty pupils. The Irish schools were small and scattered, and the attendance must of necessity be very poor. If Ireland was denied the proper number of teachers, the children must suffer in the education they received. When the land question was under discussion, he tried to get a little for the Irish boy while he was at school. It was really pitiable to see the little boys when they went out travelling with their bare feet over the gravel roads, and trying to amuse themselves. If they wished to develop the physique of the people they should provide the boys with proper playgrounds where they would be under the supervision of the teachers. If the landlords had any interest in Irish education, the very least they might give would be an acre of land to every school on their estates. He trusted that something would be done in that direction.

Dealing with the question of pensions paid to Irish teachers, the hon. Member said £1,300,000 was voted some twenty-two years ago for pensions. Before that period between £10,000 and £20,000 was given yearly to the payment of the equivalent of pensions. The £1,300,000 was not Imperial, but Irish money. It was invested at 3 per cent., and the income went to pay pensions to teachers. From 1879 to 1888 not one penny of Imperial money was given to pensions for Irish teachers, though previously £10,000 was given yearly as a contribution for retiring allowances. The system under which the pension scheme was worked was disgraceful and discreditable. He knew of a teacher, who had passed first, was an LL.D. of the Royal University, and had spent forty years in the service, who only got a pension of £34 a year. Why, an ordinary policeman, with only twenty-five years service, got a pension of £50 a year! A short time ago the Chief Secretary, in reply to a Question he put as to whether the Pension Fund would be revised in the near future, said that it was not at present under investigation; that the last revision had been in 1901, and that there would not be another until 1906. He had the strongest reason for believing that that was hardly correct. The Education Office in Dublin never heard one word of revision in 1901, nor had the heads of the Department, nor the teachers. He was assured that the last revision was in 1897–8. Another matter to which he wished to call the serious attention of the Chief Secretary was the purchase and sale of the stocks of the Pension Fund by the men in charge of it. In 1899 stocks were sold at a loss of £13,739, and in the very same year they had an income of £127,791 over and above what was required to meet the expenditure of the year. Rumours were afloat that the money was taken away by some gentleman connected with the fund. He could understand selling stocks if money was required to meet current expenses, but when there was a surplus that year of £127,000 the matter required the very serious consideration of the Chief Secretary.

He wished to touch on the question of the inspectorate. The inspectors had very important duties entrusted to them. They had to see that the teaching was good and efficient, but there was also something to be said as to the manner in which they carried out their work in the schools. He was sorry that he was constrained to mention one inspector, whose conduct in Dublin was simply disgraceful. He had heard of cases where that gentleman had examined convent schools, during which his behaviour was so disgustingly rude to the nuns that they had to retire and leave him to examine as he pleased. In another case he had been so rude that the managers who visited the school a short time afterwards wrote to the Board of Education that that inspector would not be admitted to the school again. The gentleman in question was named Mr. Dickie. A man who set such an example of boorishness was unfit for the work, and it was to be hoped that he would be made to feel that that was not the way to conduct himself. He had had numbers of letters from teachers in evening schools complaining that they had not been paid for the results of their teaching in these schools, which had done excellent work. They in Ireland hailed the establishment of these schools with pleasure, and every Irishman wished to do everything in his power to facilitate the work done in them. Young boys had often to leave the day schools at a very early age, and the evening schools afforded them an opportunity of continuing their education. He trusted the Chief Secretary would consider this matter, and do away with the dilatoriness in the payment of the teachers. Now that they were about to settle the land question and get the land for the people, it was absolutely essential to the future progress and prosperity of Ireland that the boys and girls should be afforded every opportunity of being trained for the battle of life when they came to manhood and womanhood, and of being fitted to compete with Scotchmen, Englishmen, and Germans. He begged to move the reduction of the Vote by £100.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a sum, not exceeding £617,001, be granted for the said Service."—(*Mr. Thomas O'Donnell.*)

MR. BOLAND (Kerry, S.) said he wished to associate himself in the strongest possible manner with what the hon. Gentleman had said as to the constitution of the National Board of Education. The system of a nominated Board which consisted of men chosen, not for their educational acquirements, but because they were Protestants or Catholics, was such an absurdity in these days that he hoped that the Committee would thoroughly disapprove of it before the debate was closed. He insisted that a revision should be made of the staffing of the schools, by which there should be one teacher for every fifty children. In Ireland, where emigration was going on to such a great extent, and the difficulties of the children attending school were great, the school population was declining. These facts should be recognised by varying the staffs; otherwise, not only would Irish children lose the advantages of a proper education, but the services of many of the teachers who had done good work in the past would have to be dispensed with. Again, it was not possible for the children in the country districts in Ireland to readily attend these houses—hovels, some of them—which stood in the place of schools, if they were kept in an insanitary and ruinous condition, and with no proper heating apparatus. The children had to come to school often in wet clothes, sit all day in them, and then go back home in teeming rain. He hoped this serious condition of things would engage the attention of the Chief Secretary. Again, he believed the National Board of Education could improve their position in the eyes of the people if they would do something to associate themselves with the industrial development of the country. They should organise Arts and Crafts exhibits in different districts of the country, and by that and other means show a real interest in the awakening of the industrial life of Ireland which was so happily evidencing itself.

Dr. Starkie, Resident Commissioner for Education in Ireland, delivered an address last year before the British Association on education in Ireland. He was not concerned much with that gentleman's position in the educational world, though he gave him credit for great ability, which he believed had been shown in his grasp of great educational problems. To show the methods employed by Dr. Starkie as regarded his own countrymen, he would read one or two extracts. Referring to the application of compulsory education in Ireland, Dr. Starkie said—

> "It is my duty to point out that the methods of enforcing the Act are ludicrously unsuited to this country, where, as a celebrated writer has put it, 'from the highest to the lowest, forgetfulness to public duty is the rule of life.'"

It was most unfortunate that a gentleman in the position of Resident Commissioner should allow himself, before a meeting of the British Association, to attempt to lower the esteem of his own countrymen in that manner. He desired to bring before the Committee some of the extracts quoted by Dr. Starkie, which reflected on Catholic school managers in Ireland. He did not say that in reading those extracts Dr. Starkie intended to mislead his audience, but it was most unfortunate that he had not given the extracts in their entirety, as they led people to imagine that they were confirmation of the character of the supervision exercised by the Catholic managers over their schools. The following was one extract—

> "With a few conspicuous exceptions, managers take no active part in the inner working of the schools; and, viewed as a whole, the

interest which they manifest can scarcely be said to be practical."

What the Report actually said was—

> "The managers as a body show considerable concern in the welfare of the schools. They are naturally anxious, of course, to promote the educational progress of the pupils; and, as a rule, they give cordial support to the suggestions and recommendations which it becomes my duty to make."

Then the Report proceeded with the extract quoted. Another extract read by Dr. Starkie was—

> "Practical supervision of the schools is not habitual amongst the managers."

The Report stated—

> "The managers' attitude in this district in reference to the present system has been very satisfactory. A friendly disposition and an inclination to give every opportunity of success, even in branches to which some of them felt personally hostile or indifferent, seemed to pervade their ranks. In the beginning, when, in certain quarters, opposition was made at its introduction, some of them used their personal influence strongly in their favour."

Then followed the extract quoted. He read those extracts fully to show how very unfair, in his opinion, it was for the Resident Commissioner in a public address to read them partially, and to convey a totally wrong impression to his audience. The unfortunate thing about it was that not a tenth of his audience would ever have an opportunity of reading a refutation of Dr. Starkie's statements. No one except those deeply interested in Irish education would study the Reports for themselves; and the English and Scottish members of the Association returned to their own countries with an unfair opinion of the Catholic managers. It was to put the other case that he had read the full extracts to the Committee.

There were two other subjects to which he desired to direct attention. There had been great delay in forwarding building plans for national schools in country districts. The Chief Secretary might reply that the reason was that the Government were considering a larger scheme for education in Ireland; but it was most unfortunate that where the locality concerned desired to have a new school it should not be provided. The hon. Member for South Tyrone alluded to training colleges in Ireland. He would not discuss the Marlborough Street Training College, because he was not acquainted with it; neither would he deal with the equivalent grant. Three training colleges had been established in Ireland since 1890—viz., at Belfast, Waterford, and Limerick. He would not now say what, in his opinion, should be the proper arrangements in those colleges, if they had Catholic University education in Ireland. That was a very much larger question; but seeing that there were no University facilities for the majority of the Irish people it was a most unfortunate thing that the Government were so niggardly in regard to maintaining the training colleges that they could not be carried on in an efficient way. He believed that a sum of £3,000 would put those colleges in the same position as the training colleges in Dublin. Although he was not prepared to say that if Ireland had further educational facilities he would approve of their position, still he hoped some attempt would be made to put them in an efficient position. He and every other Irish Member were delighted to hear that in reference to the evening school established by Colonel Moore in Connaught for the teaching of Irish language and Irish history the National Board had seen the error of it and had climbed down. In that respect, at least, Dr. Starkie had, to some extent, looked on the national requirements of the people. He certainly hoped that the National Board, instead of trying to handicap men like Colonel Moore, who desired to revive the Irish language and the teaching of Irish history, would lend them every assistance in their power. Many of them held that the best means to promote continuation schools was to excite the interest of the population; and there was nothing better qualified to excite that interest than the teaching of the Irish language. If the managers desired to have Irish classes let not the Board obstruct them in any way; and where, by means of those classes, the intellectual energies of the people were raised, new subjects would be introduced and the evening schools would be as successful in Ireland as they were in this country.

MR. CHARLES CRAIG (Antrim, S.) said that the Committee would agree that very able and interesting speeches had been delivered on the subject of education in Ireland. Irish Members on his own side of the House were also interested in the subject. The hon. Member for West Kerry in his interesting speech, which was listened to with great attention, mentioned that he was in favour of denominational education.

MR. THOMAS O'DONNELL said he did not state what he was in favour of, and what he was not in favour of.

MR. CHARLES CRAIG said that the hon. Member stated that he was trained at Marlborough Street College; and he certainly gathered that the hon. Member was in favour of all teachers being trained together. A great many people, especially in his part of the country, thought that if they could have a system of education properly administered a great deal would have been done to settle other social questions in Ireland. The national system was originally intended to be undenominational, but by a tacit understanding it had been allowed to drift in the opposite direction; and he felt that that was responsible for the tension and friction which, he was sorry to say, existed between the various religious bodies in Ireland. He thought the Chief Secretary should do something to take up seriously the question of the national schoolhouses throughout Ireland. In the north of Ireland a large number of the schoolhouses were not fit places for children to be confined in for so many hours at a time every day. The principal fault of these houses was want of proper heating and ventilation. The houses were badly constructed, and in winter, when the windows had to be kept closed in order to keep out the cold, the atmosphere was extremely injurious. It seemed to him that very little would be required to properly heat and ventilate them, as they were more or less perfect in other respects. Another important question was the question of playgrounds. It was the duty of the education authority to see that the children had proper places to play in when they were let out during school hours. That was most important, and he was very glad the hon. Member opposite had called attention to it. With regard to the Marlborough Street College the hon. Member for South Tyrone had drawn a sufficiently touching picture of the college, but there was one point he had not touched upon which showed the inadequate provision in this college for exercise in wet weather. The residence of the students ought certainly to be improved, and seeing that this was the parent college of the three denominational colleges which had branched out of it, it was clearly not right that it should be in such a dilapidated condition while its children should be so flourishing.

COLONEL NOLAN (Galway, N.) said the question of the schools was one on which all Irish Members were united. The great difficulty with regard to the schools was the heating, but he should have thought 1s. a head on the average attendance would secure a sum amply sufficient to cover the cost of the heating arrangements. It was worth while to see that the children when they went into school were warm. When people were not properly warmed by artificial means they tried to keep up the warmth by stopping up the ventilation, which must be injurious. What the Board had to do was to ask itself would it find the money to put these schools in order or were they going to leave matters as they were. He agreed with the suggestion of the hon. Member for West Kerry that the national teachers of Ireland should be brought into touch with University life and training. As regards the proposal to spend £50,000 on the Marlborough Street Training College that was one which should be well considered. He would not grudge any money so spent if it was treated as undenominational, and provided a proportionate amount was spent on the Catholic colleges of Ireland.

MR. T. L. CORBETT (Down, N.) desired to associate himself with the appeal which had been made with regard to the Marlborough Street College. He felt it was unnecessary to attempt to convince the Chief Secretary of the justice of the claim; the right hon. Gentleman had made himself thoroughly acquainted with the details of the question, and was convinced of the absolute need for something being done. The difficulty lay with the Treasury. During the past few weeks, however, the Committee had witnessed striking examples of the wonderfully persuasive powers of the Chief Secretary, and he hoped the right hon. Gentleman would exercise those powers on the Treasury so that the necessary policy in connection with this college might be carried out. It should be borne in mind that it was an undenominational college, and that out of 294 students only 162 were Presbyterians.

MR. DILLON (Mayo, E) said it was rather late in the day for the hon. Member for South Antrim to advocate undenominational education in primary schools. On the establishment of the present system an attempt was made to introduce undenominational teaching, but Presbyterians and Irish Churchmen were as vigorously opposed to the idea as were Catholics themselves. In fact the system had no friend at all except Archbishop Whately, who, under the guise of undenominationalism and mixed teaching, sought to proselytise the Irish people. All were agreed, however, that something ought to be done to improve the condition of the schools. In many places the state of the buildings was nothing short of a scandal; it was not only a hindrance to education but a danger to the health of the children. As to the lack of heat, of which complaint had been made, it was simply a question of fires, and the supply of fuel. As to ventilation, many of the country schools were in an appalling condition. A further evil was the lack of sanitary accommodation, and the ruinous state into which some of the schools had been allowed to fall. It might be asked why the localities did not do more. Two systems of education were possible—one based primarily on local control, with local contributions, and the other based on central control, the State bearing the cost. Each system had advantages and disadvantages which did not belong to the other. For good or for evil the Irish system had been so completely one of central control, with practically the whole cost coming from the National Exchequer, that it was idle to speak of local contributions. With local contributions there must be some kind of local control, and the question of local contributions would not arise as long as the centralised system was in full possession. But that system involved central responsibility for the condition of the schools; hence they had a right to complain of the present state of affairs. As to the whole system of education, he did not believe there was any other civilised country in the world which possessed so wretched and rotten a system as Ireland. The Board was an unpaid body, and its members were appointed without any reference whatever to their educational capacity or interest in the work. The only guiding principle in their selection was that there should be an equal number of Protestants and Catholics. The system of so-called national education was in reality a reversal of everything national. It was only within the last year or two that the Board, bowing before a great national agitation, had allowed some breath of nationalism to creep into the system. But even then they had recently distinguished themselves by refusing to Colonel Moore the grants which they had themselves promised to continuation schools in which Irish history and language were taught, and declaring they would not waste public money on the teaching of such a pack of rubbish. The body was really an intolerable one. There were rumours in the air that its days were numbered, and that a new system was to be established. He hoped that was the case, for the sooner the Board was destroyed the better it would be for the cause of education. It had a most ignoble record and he did not envy the Chief Secretary who had to set up its successor. A more difficult and thorny task could not be imagined, and this was a standing example of the difficulties of Irish Government which was based upon the principle that the Irish people should not have any voice in the management of their own affairs. That being so, when the Government were driven into a corner they took refuge in the appointment of a Board which must consist half of Catholics and half of Protestants, and by that method they considered the problem solved. The only remaining principle to be observed was not to allow any Nationalists on the Board, and that was a good specimen of Irish Government. This National Board was absolutely indefensible, and he hoped it would be followed by some system which would bring education more into unison with the people of Ireland.

With regard to Dr. Starkie, that gentleman had some very interesting projects with regard to education in Ireland, but there never was a greater scandal than the oration he recently delivered in Belfast. Having read that oration and the corrected edition of it, if every word was absolutely accurate and true—as it was not—the delivery of that speech before the British Association marked Dr. Starkie as a man disqualified to retain his office. Dr. Starkie was charged with administering this extraordinary system of education in Ireland, and under his control there were a large number of managers and many Catholic priests among them. The first duty of a man in Dr. Starkie's position with any proper appreciation of his responsibility would be to endeavour, as far as was consistent with the due discharge of his duties, to make things work smoothly with the managers of the schools. Dr. Starkie went to Belfast, and before a large body of distinguished men from England and Scotland, who were mainly unacquainted with the details of Irish administration, delivered a most violent and outrageous philippic indicting the whole body of clerical managers of Ireland as being scandalously negligent of their duty, and as being guilty of the meanest selfishness in the discharge of their work. He was practically denouncing the whole body of managers under him, and he based his oration upon a series of reports he had received from his managers which he said had not been published. Therefore, the reports from which he quoted were confidential up to that time and were not in the hands of the managers who were attacked. When those reports were made public it was found that from the beginning to the end of his speech his extracts were garbled, and where there was anything favourable to the managers it was suppressed and only the sentences unfavourable to the managers were selected. A more grotesque parody upon public documents he had never seen in his life. Dr. Starkie's conduct in delivering such an oration became far worse and worthy of much greater censure now that they had proved beyond all question that the reports upon which he based his speech did not bear out the statements made in his address. He thought this matter demanded the attention of the Chief Secretary. Dr. Starkie stated that the inspectors reported that the majority of the managers were quite indifferent to education, and that in many cases the schools were well-nigh derelict, and the only supervision given to them was that afforded by the Board's inspectors. When the reports were published it turned out that there were sixty-five inspectors' reports, which embraced the whole of Ireland. No less than forty-three or forty-four of those reports were diametrically opposed to Dr. Starkie's statement, twelve were doubtful, and only some nine or ten bore out his statement. Was not that a monstrous state of things? The worst of it was that all of that great body of men who attended the meeting of the British Association returned to England and Scotland with his statement, and had never seen the correction. Consequently, the whole public mind of those scientific men who were present had been poisoned against their system by a method which he could only describe as a "cooked" and twisted version of the reports of the Irish inspectors.

The question of the model schools had not been raised for a number of years, but six or seven years ago had repeated debates upon this question in the House. The predecessor of the present Chief Secretary, finding that the model school system was absolutely and totally indefensible, promised an inquiry, and it was commenced. He recollected asking a Question upon the subject some five years ago, and the answer he got was that the Board and Resident Commissioner were occupied with a great inquiry as to the new method introduced into primary education in the model schools. Since then the subject appeared to have been lost sight of. What had become of that inquiry, and what did the Government intend to do in reference to it? It was unnecessary to give all the figures, but he might add that the present system was scandalous. In some of the schools the children were now educated at the cost of about £10 per head, and the attendance in some of them was absurd. There was a school in Cork built to accommodate 1,220 pupils and the attendance there was about 240 and the cost £7 per head. He understood that the Galway model school had been closed, and he did not think anyone was attending it. In many other parts of Ireland these schools were a perfect scandal, and were kept up merely for a small number of the population, most of them being children of the well-to-do class. This money was consequently diverted from the teaching in the ordinary national schools and used in a most disgraceful and wasteful way upon the teaching of the children of people who did not require it. This system had been kept up against the constant protests of the Nationalist Members, and he thought they were now entitled to ask the right hon. Gentleman what he intended to do in the matter.

*MR. SAMUEL YOUNG (Cavan, E.) said he had heard with regret the observations made by the hon. Members for South Down and South Antrim with reference to the desire which pervaded the North of Ireland for a united education. He felt that as a Belfast man there never was a greater misrepresentation than to suppose that Presbyterians, Episcopalians, or Methodists, had any desire for mixed education. He scarcely knew a single Presbyterian church that had not attached to it a Presbyterian school with a Presbyterian master, and the same was the case in the Methodist and Episcopalian Churches. The claim for united education put forward was to prevent the Catholic people from getting their fair share of the money granted for this country. To-morrow a Bill would pass its Third Reading which would produce a marvellous revolution in Ireland. The next important step was to educate the people. The system must be reconstructed. The dominant minority had had their way so far as education was concerned, and it appeared to him that in order to elevate and improve Ireland it was essential that they should reconstruct the education of the country. Three-fourths of the people were discontented with the present system, and they must have a Catholic University for themselves. The Queen's Colleges were admirably adapted for the Presbyterians, and the Episcopalians were pleased with Trinity College. There were three-fourths of the people of Ireland who were discontented in regard to higher education, and a University should be provided for them. There were four Universities in Scotland, where the population was similar in size to that of Ireland. He could not see any reason why there should not be three Universities in Ireland. Elementary education must be improved and the teachers must be elevated, so that the parents might be satisfied that they were entrusting the intellectual and moral training of their children to an educated class of men. The Catholics of Ireland would not send their sons to a Protestant university. That was out of the question. They were denominational to the backbone. The lines of demarcation were quite too marked for them to mix. He could see no reason why Catholic teachers should not get higher education, and be fitted to take in hand the teaching of the youth of the country. One or two bold measures such as that which would pass the Third Reading to-morrow would bring loyalty and contentment to the people of Ireland. It appeared to him absurd for hon. Members from Ireland to talk of mixed education at this time of day. Now that the land question had been settled, he hoped for ever, the question of education was the most important the Government had to deal with in Ireland.

MR. SLOAN (Belfast, S.) said the sanitary condition of the schools in Ireland had been fully gone into by hon. Members on both sides of the House. His own opinion was that the condition of things was such that a protest should be entered against it whenever opportunity arose. The hon. Member for East Cavan had made a speech that filled him with amazement, in so far as it related to the question of mixed education. The hon. Member said that the members of all denominations should be able to consolidate in getting a system of national education. While they were agreed in urging that the schools should be put in proper sanitary condition, he thought the hon. Member should also cultivate good feeling on the part of the people, so that they might mix together in the different colleges, and receive the education which would qualify them adequately for their career in life. Reference had been made to Marlborough Street

College, where the dining-room was also the study. This particular college had been ignored notwithstanding the undertakings given by the Government as far back as 1891. There was a specific pledge given that the thing would be remedied, and now in 1903 the old complaints still survived. The teachers in Ireland had many grievances. If there were fifty-nine children in a school the teacher could not get an assistant, but if there were sixty or sixty-one he could. Surely the fact that there were one or two pupils short of sixty was not a sufficient excuse for not giving the teacher an assistant. Was it reasonable to expect a teacher to give proper attention to the children in the First to the Sixth Standard, and to be responsible for an infant class also, unless he had assistance in the work? He trusted that the result of this debate would be that these matters would be carefully looked into.

*Mr. YOXALL (Nottinghamshire, W.) said that while listening to the debate certain famous Parliamentary words came to his memory, and he felt disposed to paraphrase them by saying—"If I were an Irishman, as I am an Englishman, I would never, never, rest until the Irish system of education was thoroughly reformed." So far as he could make out there was no system of education in the British Isles that needed reform anything like so much as that of Ireland, and indeed outside of Spain, Turkey, and Russia there was no system of education in Europe that needed reform so much. It was a disgrace to the United Kingdom and to Parliament that this system should be allowed to go on. The schools in Ireland required more money, teachers, books, buildings, and fuel. It appeared to him that to blame the National Board, so long as the lack of money was the real cause, was to begin at the wrong end altogether. There must be more money spent on the Irish educational system. If money was provided to meet its requirements the results would be more satisfactory than at present. He supposed that then, placing the three kingdoms in the order of merit in the matter of education, Scotland would be first, England a very good second, and, he was afraid, Ireland would be for many years a very bad third. Now that there was a new hope with regard to the Irish land system it was more important than ever that something should be done for the Irish schools. In the Irish schools lay the hope of Ireland in the future. If the elementary schools were not efficient what was the use of spending money on continuation schools and secondary schools? The Reports of the Commissioners year by year and the communications he frequently received from the teachers in Ireland showed that the schools were sadly lacking in every respect. The schools were cold, badly ventilated, and comfortless. Mechanical arrangements for the supply of air to school buildings were entirely out of the question. The best ventilation for a school was a good draught from the window to the fire-place. Again and again on the bitterest winter day there was no fire in the schools. In the present case, owing to the lack of State aid, the duty fell upon the managers and teachers. The managers were too poor and the teachers were even poorer. The consequence was that the schools were unheated and unventilated; and altogether in a very unhappy state. Then as to the question of books. There was a time when the books published by the Irish Education Committee were a model for the whole country; but that time had passed away, and these books had been long outstripped in this country and in Scotland, both in quality and quantity. At present the teachers in Ireland had to work without a proper supply of books, stationery, pens, and all the requisites for good school work.

Then as to the question of staffing. If there were sixty children in a small school one teacher must do all the work owing to the maintenance of the old system. The standards had not been abandoned and the teacher's work was still cut up into six or seven water-tight compartments with an infant class, and under these conditions the work could not be done efficiently. It would be superficial and was bound in the long run to fail. It had been suggested that there should be an assistant teacher in every school where there were fifty scholars; and he was told that that would cost no more than £9,000 a year. That was a reform, therefore, which would not demand a large sum of money, and he hoped that something would be done to secure it.

It was said that the supply of students in the training colleges had fallen off 43 per cent. and it would fall still more until the teachers were made more comfortable and their position made more assured. The male teacher only got £56 a year and the female £44 to commence with, and additions to these small incomes were uncertain, while the maximum, which was attained by very few, was only £175 a year. Under these circumstances it was no wonder that the supply of teachers was falling off. The debate had shown that there was a great deal of responsibility on the Chief Secretary. The power was largely in his hands. Was he going to do for education what he had done in another Department, when, by his skilful management of a great Bill, he had brought about a feeling of friendship, not only between all classes of the Irish people, but a feeling of friendship in England towards Ireland. Let the right hon. Gentleman turn his attention to education. They all knew how busy he must be just now in connection with imposing functions in Ireland; but nothing could be more imposing or of more real importance to Ireland than the education of her children. Let the right hon. Gentleman ascertain for himself the condition of education in Ireland and then come back to signalise his term of office by another patriotic and practical reform. The money was there in the equivalent grant, and the question related to the United Kingdom as well as to Ireland, for the Irish children came over to this country, which had therefore an interest in their education.

MR. CLANCY (Dublin County, N.) said he hoped the right hon. Gentleman the Chief Secretary would not take too lightly the reference to the serious condition of the Irish national schools. In point of fact Dr. Starkie had himself made the strongest statement about them that he had ever heard when he said in his Report that—

> "He had prepared an official list of 1,000 schools which might be described as scarcely habitable."

That showed that really something must be done to cure what was nothing less than a regular scandal. He hoped the right hon. Gentleman would not say, as some of his predecessors had done, that the Irish people ought, by local rates or something of the kind, to supply these defects. The Irish people would do nothing of the kind as long as the control of the national system of education was not in their own hands. As soon as they got their national system put on the same footing it was in other countries, the Irish people would undertake the necessary financial responsibility. A good deal had been said about the Board of Education. It was quite true that this Board was not constituted from an educational point of view. No doubt most of the members were educated men, but they were not selected for that reason, but to satisfy certain religious claims. Whatever might be the case in England, he was right in saying that both the Protestants—even the Presbyterians—and Catholics in Ireland, were in favour of denominational education, and would not have anything else. It was to satisfy this demand for a denominational system of education that this miserable device was adopted of having the National Board half Catholic and half Protestant.

There were two faults to be found with that system. Firstly, it was a Board which acted in secret, and secondly, Dr. Starkie, in the address which had been alluded to, stated that every civilised country in Europe had a single central authority for national education, but in Ireland they had nothing in that direction; and if they could not profess anything else they were fertile in school authorities which exercised their independent functions with all the security of constant change. It was irritating to the Irish people in the highest degree to find that one of the most important of their domestic concerns, as a nation, was disposed of behind their backs in a back street in Dublin, by ten or twenty men appointed by a Government over whom they had not the least control. That was the cardinal defect of the national education system; and the result of it had in all times been the same. Archbishop Whately carried on a religious and political campaign against the Irish people by means of the Education Board, but he was beaten on the religious issue. Archbishop Whately, in his own words, tried to uproot the gigantic fabric of the Catholic Church in Ireland but failed, and the attempt had never been repeated, and if it were repeated, it would meet with the same result. But from the time of Archbishop Whately to the present hour the political campaign had never been abandoned, and it was now in full swing, so far as modern conditions allowed. They all knew what Archbishop Whately did to edit the reading school books of the Board. He was afraid of allowing to be instilled into the minds of the Irish children a single word about freedom, and struck out the word "freedom" from Campbell's poem containing the line, "And Freedom shrieked as Kosciusko fell." Why not have Irish history taught in Irish schools? Think of France, or Germany, or England allowing a system of education to be conducted in their schools without the history of their country being taught in them! But the children of Ireland, one of the most freedom-loving nations in the world, were absolutely denied any knowledge whatever of the facts of Irish history. It was even worse now in the national schools than it used to be when he was a student at one of the Queen's Colleges. In his time they were allowed some glimpses of the history of Ireland down to the invasion of Henry II. It stopped at the year 1172; and what happened after that? What the relations were between England and Ireland from 1172 to the present day were a perfect blank and mystery to any student who received no other knowlege of Irish history besides that embodied in the text books used in the Queen's Colleges. It was worse in the case of the national schools, which did not teach either ancient or modern Irish history, and he was perfectly certain that no person who proposed to teach modern Irish history from the days of Cromwell to the present day and applied for a grant would receive it. That was quite right on the part of the authorities, who were put there to denominationalise the people. The Board was an institution composed of men who had no sympathy with the aspirations of the people, but were controlled by the Chief Secretary of the day. If the National Board attempted to conduct their system on principles that were really in consonance with the feelings and convictions of the people of Ireland, that moment steps would be taken by the Government in England, by its representatives in Dublin Castle, to stop them. He had no hope that the Board would be changed until they had Home Rule, but he hoped that during the coming recess the Chief Secretary would be able to devote some portion of his time to remove what was nothing more nor less than a scandal.

*MR. T. W. RUSSELL said he did not remember a session since 1871 when this subject of Irish education had not been discussed. They had now arrived at a period when the question really ought to be taken in hand by the Government. This was practically a session when an Irish Parliament was sitting at Westminster. There were not more than half-a-dozen British Members who had taken the trouble to listen to the present debate, and that state of things would continue—at least until they went to a division. What was the question that ought to be faced in discussing national education in Ireland? The education in that country was controlled by a Board that was not responsible to Parliament in the same way as were other Boards, because over and over again the Chief Secretary had admitted that he had no power to make the Board do certain things. Why should that Board be allowed to exist outside the region of Parliamentary control? If they stopped the Vote they would stop education; and the real truth was that these sixteen or twenty gentlemen were absolutely masters of the situation, and, short of stopping their supplies, there was no control whatever over them. He was not inclined to deny that the National Board of Education had done good work in the past; but they were now hopelessly out of date, and the sooner their system was changed the sooner would education have a chance in the country. The Chief Secretary had got rid of a good deal of trouble by his dealings with the land question, and if he desired further conquests probably he would find the education question would be as tempting a field for conquest as the land question was when he first surveyed it. There were signs in Ireland, and especially in the North of Ireland, that the hard crust of the earth was breaking, and if the Chief Secretary liked to try his hand he might get a conference something like the land conference which would help him in arriving at a conclusion on this difficult question.

There would be no zones on this question and there would be no matter of money.

MR. T. M. HEALY (Louth, N.): A torrid zone, certainly.

*MR. T. W. RUSSELL said he had no desire to enter into a question of denominational *versus* mixed education. All his life, in the abstract, he had been in favour of mixed education, higher and primary. He had always considered in the abstract that the children of the country should be educated together and should grow up children of that country. He had always, in the abstract, believed that such a state of things should prevail. But the abstract was not of much use for anything in Ireland. Whatever their opinion might be in the abstract they had to give way to the hard facts of the situation, and the hard fact of the educational situation in Ireland was that the overwhelming majority of the people in Ireland—Roman Catholic and Protestant—would not have mixed education. They were all in favour of it in the abstract but they would not have it in the concrete, and it would be found that in every Presbyterian congregation where it was possible there was a school under Presbyterian auspices; in every Episcopalian congregation would be found a school under Episcopalian auspices; and in every Methodist congregation there would be a school under Methodist auspices. He had always been in favour of mixed education, higher and lower, but there was no use in kicking against the pricks or in forcing abstract ideas upon people who did not believe in them as realities. He was, however, perfectly convinced that they were close to the time when this whole educational system must be grappled with, both higher and primary; and it would be found, if the Chief Secretary did take it up, not so very difficult of solution after all, because there was a great deal to give people hope in Ireland at the present time. Old ideas were passing away and people were beginning to agree with each other, work with each other, and feel with each other, and he believed they were close at hand to the time when the education question could be solved, and solved satisfactorily to all classes of the country. He rather regretted the speech of the hon. and gallant Member for Galway, who was the first to drag the denominational question into the debate. It was not, so far as the training college was concerned, a question of denominationalism at all; it was a question of common decency, and it was on that ground that he put it before the House. He used the word "denominational" colleges no doubt because that was the only word to describe the situation. The facts were simply that the denominational colleges—two Catholic and one Protestant Episcopalian—had all satisfactory homes and satisfactory appliances, and the sum of £100,000 had been spent upon them. He did not object to that expenditure in the least, but there was another college actually in existence. They were not setting it up, it was a Government college acting with their own institutions; to that college went Presbyterians, Methodists, and a small minority of Catholics; and so long as the Government maintained that college they were bound to maintain it adequately and decently.

MR. T. M. HEALY said that when he found this debate was coming on he thought that if he looked up the Report of the Royal Education Commissioners he would be able to see something of what was being done. He had spent an hour looking for it in the library and then discovered that it was only presented to the House on Friday last and was not yet printed. It was most desirable, when there was so much talk about education and this revised programme, that the Committee should know what was being done. Education was being very much spoken of, but he wanted to know what it was that was being done in these unhappy institutions known as the national schools, and what the unfortunate children went into this penal servitude to learn, and when they were voting £1,500,000 for education in Ireland they ought to be able to go to the librarian of the House and get at the curriculum that was being taught in the country, so that they might be able to know what these unfortunate little creatures were imbibing under this system. It was exceedingly strange that although this system was so departmentalised he was able to get no idea whatever from the records of th

House of what was being taught, but it was a remarkable thing that he had been able to ascertain what the teachers had to learn, and, having arrived at that, he had been able to gather in some measure what the children were allowed to learn. He turned up the Papers (and let the Committee imagine a little Munster child being taught geography by his master). He had to pass an examination. There were ten questions—

"(1) Draw a map of the six northern counties of England showing the mountain ranges and general drainage system of this part of the country. (2) On the outline map supplied to you indicate by shading or colouring the insular possessions of Great Britain and mark the position of Olga Bay, Ashantee, the Swan River, Port Elizabeth, Adelaide, Zanzibar, and Durban. (3) Name the principal mineral products of England, and the districts where they are found. (4) What tracts of country are included in the great European plain. Mention any barren regions to be found in Europe."

Not in Connemara. That was not brought in to the European plain.

"(5) Name the principal British ports and those on the other side of the water for our Atlantic and South African trade. How are those trade routes protected?"

What a lot of Atlantic and South African trade there was from Bantry Bay and Connaught.

"(6) Account for the great commercial and industrial activity along the Bristol Channel and the estuary of the Thames."

They were not to account for the want of it along the Shannon, the Lea, the Boyne, and the Blackwater.

"(7) Compare the highlands and lowlands of Scotland as to climate, natural features, and industrial resources. What forms the boundary between the two. (8) Give an account of Western Australia with reference to its climate and natural products, and to its development within the last few years. (10) Give a full account of the south-west monsoon, and of the causes producing it. In what way does it affect India?"

That was what the teacher had to pass in geography. He looked further and he found ten questions which the teachers had to pass in the "History of Great Britain and Ireland," and this was what they were paying to have Irish children taught. One would have thought there would be something of the history of Ireland; there was one question. These were the questions which had to be answered—

"(1) Describe the advance in power made by the English House of Commons under William III. (2) By what measures was the Irish wool trade destroyed? (3) Name the different candidates for the English crown at the death of Queen Anne, and describe the claims of each. (4) Describe the Annersley Case and the Act of Parliament to which it led."

That was a good question.

"(5) Give a full account of the Earl of Mar's Rebellion. (6) Write a short description of the plan of operations of the South Sea scheme and give its history. (7) Describe the state of the English Press at the beginning of the 18th century. (9) What were the principal resolutions adopted by the convention of delegates from the Ulster Volunteers which met at Dungannon in 1782. (10) Write a short biography of Chatham or of Clive."

He would much prefer them to write a short biography of the right hon. Gentleman the Chief Secretary or Lord Edward Fitzgerald. That was what was called national education, and that was what they pumped into these unfortunate teachers, and they were expected to pump into the children. It would be more important to the Irish people if they were taught the cultivation of the potato. When there was all this talk about education and they were spending money for it he would like to see a practical scheme administered by practical people. How could they have a practical scheme under this.

The right hon. Gentleman was invited to consider Irish education. He had looked up the number of Chief Secretaries in the last few years, and he found there were fourteen in the last twenty-five years—giving an average tenure of office of less than two years—each of whom only regarded his position as a spring-board to some Imperial promotion—he was not speaking of the last two or three incumbents of the office—and, so far from considering themselves bound in any way to look at the position from an Irish point of view, their one idea was to scurry out of the country at the earliest possible moment. They knew that the right hon. Gentleman the present Chief Secretary was not only master of his duties, but was in thorough sympathy with the people he had to rule, but it was hopeless to suppose they could have any reform in the elementary education of Ireland until the members of the Board appointed for that purpose were selected for their knowledge of the subject. The eminent gentlemen who composed the present Board were too eminent for him; they knew too much. What interest did such men take in what children ought to know, what children in kindergarten or children of an older age ought to be set to. They were men who had become eminent in various walks of life, and who were the last men to know what was practical with regard to education. They were Edmund G. Dease, Esq., Sir Malcolm J. Inglis, Sir Percy R. Grace, J. Morell, Esq., Sir Henry Bellingham, R. H. Christopher Palles, Esq. Rev. Henry Evans, Sir Rowland Blennerhassett, His Honour Judge Shaw, Rev. Hamilton B. Wilson, Stanley Harrington, Esq., William R. J. Molloy, Esq., Very Rev. John Henry Bernard, Right Rev. Mervyn Archdale, William Joseph Miles Starkie, Esq., Right Hon. Justice Gibson, Anthony Traill, Esq., Right Hon. Lord Frederick Fitzgerald, and His Honour Judge Carton. A more impracticable Board for the purposes of elementary education could not be created. Was it to be expected that the Chief Secretary, whose duties were mainly concerned with carrying on the King's Government from a political point of view, and who was not selected for his knowlege of education or of the educational problem—was it to be expected that he, in his necessarily brief term of office, would attempt to reform this Board of fifty years growth, when he knew very well that any such attempt would simply land him in hot water? That was the chief indictment of English rule in Ireland. English Members were perfectly well intentioned, but they could not get at what the Irish people wanted in these respects. A foolish Minister started a system fifty or sixty years ago when times were altogether different, and that system, of its own *vis inertiœ*, continued simply because the English Government could not make up its mind what to put in its place.

It was a most deplorable thing that so able a man as Dr. Starkie should have embroiled himself as he had done by his foolish speech, and set in opposition to himself the general body of the managers of the country who had charge in some form of the national schools. These managers, who did not trust the Board as a whole, and who were necessarily brought more into touch with its official, had been assailed by him as the propagators of ignorance and the abettors of darkness. How, under such circumstances, could they be expected ever again to have any sympathy with Dr. Starkie, or any trust in the Board? It was an extraordinary doctrine Dr. Starkie had laid down. These men were appointed managers largely on spiritual and religious grounds, to act as the spiritual custodians of the district, to prevent any contamination of the pupils, and to see that there was none of that proselytism which Dr. Whately admitted this Board was founded to set on foot. It was absurd to expect them to go into questions of what might be called the lay curriculum, to brighten up the schoolmasters, or to insist on new methods. A priest, parson, or Presbyterian minister was not necessarily an educationist at all. His function was largely negative. He had not to see whether or not free-hand drawing was properly taught, or to examine in mensuration or cube-root, or to see that the teaching of French or German was efficient. Those duties were no more cast upon him than upon the first doctor or barrister that could be met. Of course most of them, because of their position as managers, did take an interest in lay subjects, and were most anxious, —as their results depended upon it—that their pupils should be proficient; but to say that these men, perhaps in small, desolate, and poor parishes, with the humble resources at their command, were to be responsible for the education of the children, which the Government of Great Britain had taken out of their hands, and to attack them if that education was deficient, showed an utter misconception of the position of these managers, and proved that Dr. Starkie understood neither their position nor his own. He was afraid that Dr. Starkie—he regretted having to say it as he had hoped much from that gentleman's originality of thought—could not in the future be a success in his present position. He was a civil servant of distinction, and was entitled to some recognition from the Government, and there were great educational posts which he was well qualified to fill. But when Dr. Starkie selected Belfast as the venue, and the British Association as the audience, for giving an inaccurate and misleading account of parochial and national education in the country, it was idle to expect that anything he did in the future in the discharge of his functions would regain for him the confidence of the managers which it was essential that a man in his position should enjoy. He hoped that the Government, without in any way injuring Dr. Starkie's future, would be able to make some arrangement whereby he would be provided with a post in which he would be more calculated to enjoy the confidence of those whom he might have under him.

With regard to the Marlborough Street Training College, he and others did not desire that it should be deprived of the ordinary amenities, the enjoyment of which should be the lot of everyone who was trained in such a place, but this was not a question which could stand by itself. There were four or five training colleges in the country not richly endowed or efficiently equipped. The Protestant and the Catholic Colleges in Dublin were, he believed, fairly well off in that respect. Ten years ago the Prime Minister made the important declaration that the training colleges then in existence should be put on the same financial footing, whether Catholic or Protestant; but that pledge, though possibly it was not the fault of the Prime Minister, had not been fulfilled, and although training colleges had been established in Belfast, Limerick and Waterford, the provision made for them had fallen lamentably short of the necessities of the case. One of the best means of improving the position of the children in Ireland was to see that the teachers were properly trained, and he deplored that teachers, whether Catholic, Protestant, or Presbyterian, should be brought up in insanitary and unsuitable surroundings, and as might be said of the Marlborough Street College, in an almost pagan quarter. What was the remedy? A remedy would be to provide all classes with suitable training equipment. The central institutions for Protestants and Catholics in Dublin were fairly efficient, but Belfast, Limerick and Waterford were anxious to train their own teachers, and it was not too much to ask that those institutions should have some further assistance from the State. He did not know whether the right hon. Gentleman intended to apply the development grant to this purpose, but some portion of the money might very well be used in that way. As to the remaining portion of the money, the teachers of Ireland had undoubtedly put forward an unselfish claim. They did not want any of it for the purpose of increasing their salaries, or enhancing their pensions, or improving their present position, but they did point out that the money if spent amongst them would be a very great boon. As far as he could make out, if distributed, it would not mean a £10 note per annum, and it was not desirable that it should be spent in dribs and drabs, as the best use would not then be made of it. He was very anxious that the money should be effectively spent, and the responsibility for it must largely be on the Minister of the day. He felt considerable personal sympathy with the demand that had been made, and it was only the knowledge that the Chief Secretary was about to leave the House which prevented him enlarging on the matter.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND (Mr. WYNDHAM, Dover) said he did not feel competent to deal with the hon. and learned Member's amusing analysis of the syllabus of the subjects taught to teachers in Ireland, although he thought Members would agree that the syllabus showed some advance on the days of their own pupilage. On the merits, he thought Irishmen might do worse than devote a great deal of attention to the ocean trade routes of the world, as they had a considerable interest in the subject. Irish children of all denominations heard a great deal about William III., though what they heard was not always the same. He doubted, too, whether the hon. and learned Member was accurate in suggesting that the demise of the Crown on the death of Queen Anne was a matter which had no importance in Ireland. But passing from that point, he desired to take a bird's eye view of the debate as a whole. It was two years since they debated the Irish Education Votes, and those Votes, as was pointed out to-day, and also two years ago, gave an opportunity for the general discussion of the whole subject of education in Ireland, an opportunity which was a very valuable one. Hon. Members representing Irish constituencies had indulged in a great latitude of criticism and suggestion, and they were quite right. Such a debate as they had just had was most informing, and it would be madness on the part of any Government to attempt to touch the question of education in Ireland unless it had such guidance as could only be given by such a debate as that to which they had just listened. But the Minister of the day could not himself indulge in so great a latitude of criticism, and still less of suggestion. If he ventured to criticise the system, which might be considered antiquated, it might be thought he was criticising the gentlemen who gave their time and services to education in Ireland. That would be both unjust and ungenerous. Whatever quarrel they had with education in Ireland it must be recognised that men of distinction did there for nothing work which in every other country in the world was highly paid. Therefore, they ought not to look in an unfriendly spirit at the work done by those gentlemen who offered their services to their country, and got no reward of any sort or kind or description. He could not follow the example of the hon. Member for South Tyrone, who held out the expectation that the Government would forthwith set its hand to some reform of education in Ireland. It would not be proper for him to hold out that expectation, because his views on the subject were crude and immature. He knew it was difficult, and no man would even hold out the faintest promise of any great reform upon this subject until he had devoted at least six months or a year to the almost exclusive study of some of the difficulties involved. Those difficulties were very great, and the speeches they had heard that afternoon illustrated the magnitude of those difficulties.

The hon. Member for East Mayo in particular sounded a very definite note in regard to this problem when he said that the denominational system was a necessity, and the great majority of hon. Members who had spoken agreed him. The hon. Member for South Tyrone stated quite clearly that although he preferred an undenominational system he despaired altogether of ever seeing an undenominational system in Ireland. He thought the denominational system was suited to Ireland, and it would be absurd for anyone to attempt to uproot that system which in the main he thought was a blessing to Ireland. The denominational system worked well in Ireland but not in other countries. An important section of the people preferred undenominational education and they must be allowed to hold that view, and they ought not to chop logic over words upon this question. If they were to assist Education in Ireland he thought it must be in the spirit which had prevailed that afternoon which distinctly declared that denominational it must be, but they were willing to show toleration towards each other. What filled him with most hope in the course of the debate that afternoon was that while great insistence was laid upon the necessity of preserving the denominational system, there seemed to be a general desire to assist all denominations alike in certain respects, for almost every speaker spoke in favour of improving the sanitation of schools, and, he thought he ought to add the improvement of training colleges. In 1891, the Marlborough Street Training College was the only training college which had any status at all, and the present Prime Minister levelled up three other training colleges to the level of the Marlborough Street Training College. It had been said that the Marlborough Street Training College had not such a good freehome as the three denominational colleges. He came to that conclusion, and he held that it was not proper that a training college cherished by a great section of opinion in Ireland should have a building in which it was not desirable that young men should be put. For his part he thought that the change in the site of the Marlborough Street Training College would be a proper charge to put upon the Irish development grant. He thought that much that had been said upon this point would justify him in expecting that it would not be considered a very controversial charge. They ought to look to sanitation, decency, and propriety in all public buildings erected in the cause of education.

MR. T. M. HEALY: What about the other three colleges?

MR. WYNDHAM said that under the arrangement of 1891 the other three colleges received a great deal. The hon. Member opposite spoke of Limerick and

Waterford. He thought something could be done with respect to those colleges, but he had not yet gone sufficiently into the question to be able to say what should be done. Looking at the problem generally an easy solution had been offered to them by the hon. Member for West Nottingham, and all they wanted to accomplish it was money. If they had unlimited money they could make the Irish system of education, even with its admitted defects, a very popular one. The trouble was that the system must be denominational, and consequently they had to have a large number of schools, more proportionately even than in England, where there was an undenominational system. Ireland in many districts was a very poor country, so poor, in fact, that they could not expect to get any substantial contribution from the rates, if indeed they could expect to get any contribution at all. Consequently the system became on this account an expensive one, and if they had to spend a good deal of money upon training colleges they could not spend money without limit upon the erection of schools and supplying them with all modern appliances. It was difficult for him to proceed along that path unless it had been carefully reconnoitred in advance. He did not wish to say a word which would justify any hon. Member of the Committee believing that he was blind to the present conditions of the schools in Ireland, or that he was opposed to Irish children having brighter surroundings during their school days, and more warmth, or that he wished that they should be exposed to insanitary surroundings. He would remind the Committee, however, that the question of finance had to be faced. He would give one illustration to show that they must see where they were going, and how fast they were going. He knew a case in which a woman was the mistress of a school attended by thirteen children, and consequently that school was entitled to a capitation grant; but out of the thirteen of those children, nine were her own. [AN HON. MEMBER: You ought to give her an extra grant.] In the days of ancient Rome she would have received a reward from the State, not on educational, but on other grounds; but he did not think it would be fair to introduce the *jus trium liberorum*, especially if the payment would have to be made thrice. The preservation of the denominational system in Ireland brought up the expense because of the increased number of schools required, and therefore they could not have so much money to spend upon other aspects of the educational question. He agreed that the question of the proper heating of the schools and sanitation was one that ought certainly to be considered. He was glad to hear from several hon. Members that they did not entertain the hope of putting in the most expensive modern heating appliances. Certainly Ireland was not rich enough for that. It was much better that she should have the denominational education she desired than that she should have the latest electrical appliances, which might be needed in Liverpool for ventilation, but which were not required on the mountain side where there was a good deal of natural ventilation. It was the same in regard to playgrounds. In a town or large village a playground was a very proper provision, and most desirable. For his part, when he was a boy he would much sooner have gone out on to the bog to amuse himself than do as the children did in an English school, that was, play in a sanded yard with railings round, which reminded one forcibly of the Zoological Gardens. Where there was not the open countryside an effort should be made to secure a playground, provided they had some regard to economy, not so much for the sake of the general taxpayer, but for the sake of Ireland. Ireland could not afford the gilt-edged education which London and Liverpool thought they could afford, and pay for very largely out of the rates.

He had endeavoured to deal with this question in a general way. The hon. Member for West Kerry took them *seriatim* through certain questions. His own views in regard to the teachers of Ireland were well known, and they remained what they were before. The particular question of the night schools conducted by Colonel Moore had been brought up, but the grant had been made, and why should they reopen the controversy. The hon. Member dealt chiefly with building grants, playgrounds, and sanitation. He was quite clear that a portion of the Irish grant ought to go towards levelling up these schools, but it should be upon an Irish scale, and not upon the scale of great industrial cities. As the hon. Member had stated, if they were to accede to all the requests made they might spend another £500,000 a year on education, and he thought that justified him in advocating a certain amount of caution. The next specific point urged upon the Committee was the propriety of reducing the average attendance which justified the appointment of two teachers to fifty. He would give that his earnest and favourable attention. He thought it was a proper reform and one of manageable dimensions. The hon. Member for South Kerry, who also took a great interest in education, was the first of several speakers who criticised the address made by Dr. Starkie. Dr. Starkie was an educationist who was deeply keen on the subject of education, and on that occasion and others he had expressed his conviction with a good deal of vehemence. He knew as a fact that Dr. Starkie was not criticising, as the hon. Member for East Mayo thought, the priests or Catholic managers, but all managers indiscriminately. In so far as Dr. Starkie went in that direction he held that the management of many of these schools left much to be desired. He knew that Dr. Starkie did not intend that to be a charge specifically levelled against Catholics.

MR. DILLON said in that case Dr. Starkie's language was most unfortunate, for he conveyed quite another impression to his audience and to others who read his address in Ireland.

MR. WYNDHAM said he was unfortunate in his language, as many hon. Members in this House often were when they used language which did not express what they meant. The real point was what did the man mean? He did not mean it to be a charge directed specifically against schools under Catholic management. Dr. Starkie had rendered yeoman service to the course of education in Ireland, and he did not know what they should do without him. The rest of the debate had been directed against the National Commissioners. It was true that they were appointed to see, if he might put it so, fair play between the various denominations in Ireland, but they did a good deal of other work. In the absence of Dr. Starkie that Board would feel that it could not continue the arduous work imposed on it. The Committee were aware that he himself, in common with others who had studied the question, saw the great disabilities involved under the present system and would desire to see changes carried out if they could be carried out without striking at denominational education, on which Ireland set such store.

MR. DILLON asked whether the right hon. Gentleman had anything to say about the model schools.

MR. WYNDHAM said the model schools were somewhat in the same position as the Marlborough Street Training College. They represented a certain section of teachers whom it was strongly desirous to maintain, for if the considerable funds which were now at the disposal of the Government were devoted, as in the main they would be, to the assistance of education in Ireland in consonance with the wishes of the majority in Ireland, he was clear that it would not be proper at the present time to strike a blow at certain institutions on which a certain section in Ireland set great store.

MR. DILLON asked what was the result of the inquiry he had spoken of.

MR. WYNDHAM said he was not aware whether that inquiry had been carried out, but at the present moment an inquiry was being carried on which would embrace the model schools and all other parts of Irish education, in order that such changes as they should undoubtedly have to make, might be economical changes and might not involve public money when there was not public money to carry out all that they should wish to see carried out in connection with Irish education. Further than that he did not think he could go at present.

MR. DILLON asked whether the right hon. Gentleman could tell the Committee what the nature of the inquiry was to be. Was it to be a private inquiry?

MR. WYNDHAM said it was a private inquiry. He did not wish hon. Members to think that he thought it possible to carry out a great revolutionary change in Irish education, but recognising, as he did recognise, that in respect of accommodation and other even more important respects Irish education left a great deal to be desired, the first step, in his opinion, was to measure the size of the problem, and to measure the amount of money required. For that purpose an independent inquiry was being conducted into Irish education, and when he had the results of that inquiry, as he hoped to have in the course of a month or two, he would be in a better position to consider what changes could be introduced into the system believing that some changes could be introduced and that delay was undesirable.

MR. JOHN REDMOND (Waterford) said the right hon Gentleman made some allusion to training colleges, and among others to the training college at Waterford. He asked whether he understood the right hon. Gentleman correctly as saying that some portion of the grant was due to assist the Waterford Training College, which was built by the De Sales Society and which had received little or no assistance.

MR. WYNDHAM said his recollection of the request put before him by the hon. and learned Gentleman was that it was not for a grant, but to raise the number of pupils. He did consider that the raising of the number of pupils was one of the objects contemplated.

MR. FLYNN (Cork, N.) said the right hon. Gentleman had spoken of some sort of inquiry into the working of the model schools. He wished to point out that the amount spent on these schools was largely disproportionate to the results obtained. The natural consequence was that if so large an amount was spent on one section of primary education in Ireland, the rest, of course, must to some extent be starved. In the model schools the cost per head was considerably more than double what it was in the first class and efficient national schools, and therefore he trusted the inquiry would be pushed forward with energy. He hoped it would not be one of that class of inquiries about which nobody could get any definite information whatever. In the model schools the average cost per head was £4 17s., while in the ordinary national schools it was £2 6s. This seemed to indicate that there was a wasteful expenditure in giving education to the children of parents who could very well afford to pay for education out of their own pockets. The Attorney-General had admitted that the cost per head in the Cork model school was £7. That was a monstrous waste of money. The school was built to accommodate 1,226 pupils, and last year there were only 260 in average daily attendance. The expenditure was £1,819. Of the 260 in average attendance thirty-two were infants or children in the lower standards. He had intended bringing before the Committee what he believed to be the unwise and injudicious treatment meted out to the Cork Technical Instruction Committee, but as the right hon. Gentleman had said that he would endeavour to find a *modus vivendi* he would not make any observations on the subject.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND (Clare, E.) expressed satisfaction at the fact that the Chief Secretary had acknowledged the necessity for improving the condition of the schoolhouses in Ireland. The right hon. Gentleman had said that they could not expect in Ireland what he called gilt-edged education. Of course they did not, but the right hon. Gentleman would be the first to admit that there was a long way indeed between gilt-edged education, whatever that might be, and proper conditions in many of the schools in the country districts of Ireland. There was the greatest need for many of the schoolhouses being put in a proper state of repair and made comfortable both for the children and the teachers. The right hon. Gentleman did not deal with the complaints made against the National Board, but there seemed to run through his speech an admission of the necessity for overhauling the system of national education in Ireland generally. The right hon. Gentleman said it was a question of money. There was, at any rate, a large sum of money available now, and it would be most disappointing and unsatisfactory if a large portion were not devoted to the purpose of improving the national schools and doing what was necessary for the welfare of the children throughout the country.

MR. GILHOOLY (Cork Co., W.) said that down to 1900 the classification of teachers in Ireland had been accomplished by study, examination, and successful professional work, but in that year, by a despotic order of the Board of Education, or of the Treasury, the classification was stopped and what was called a system of grading was substituted. By that alteration first class teachers had been degraded to third class teachers, and they had been deprived both of their status and their emoluments. If education was to be a success in Ireland, the teachers must not be discredited in their work. When the alteration was made, he believed it was promised that no teacher would be deprived of his emoluments, and he thought inquiry should be made into this matter by the Chief Secretary, who should also consider whether some improvement should not made in the salaries of instructors in needlework and in kindergarten work. These were supposed to give all their time to their work, and their salary was only £24 a year.

Question put, and negatived.

Original Question put, and agreed to.

2. £530, to complete the sum for Endowed Schools Commissioners, Ireland.
3. £707, to complete the sum for National Gallery of Ireland.
4. £2,300, to complete the sum for Queen's Colleges, Ireland.

Resolutions to be reported.

CLASS II.

Motion made, and Question proposed. "That a sum not exceeding £106,499, be granted to His Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1904, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Department of Agriculture and other Industries and Technical Instruction for Ireland, and of the Services administered by that Department, including sundry Grants in Aid."

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND said he wished to ask the right hon. the Attorney-General whether he was in a position to give the Committee anything like a detailed account of the experiments in the growing of tobacco in Ireland undertaken by the Agricultural Department during the last three years. He asked the right hon. and learned Gentleman this Question because the Minister representing the new Agricultural Department was not in the House. Apart from his personality, he thought that it was very unfortunate that the right hon. Gentleman was not there to answer directly for his Department when matters affecting it were brought before the House. They were in this position, therefore, that while they had recently established this most useful, and in many respects effective Department, there was no representative of it in the House. This matter of tobacco growing in Ireland was exciting a considerable amount of interest. It was not generally known that long ago tobacco planting was an exceedingly remunerative industry, giving employment to large numbers of people in different portions of the country. Like the woollen industry, the tobacco industry had been destroyed in Ireland, not because it was a failure in any way, or unremunerative, but solely because it was thought desirable that nothing should be done to compete with the English Colonists in America, who had tobacco plantations there. Those who looked into the history of the question would find that a petition was presented to Charles II. asking him in so many words to have an Act carried in this House to suppress the tobacco industry in Ireland, simply because it was competing, and likely to compete still more, with the English farmers who had emigrated to Virginia and Carolina, and engaged in tobacco planting. When they heard about the cultivation of new industries in the British Empire, he thought something should be done to revive what was once a very large industry in Ireland. Four years ago he had the opportunity of calling the attention of the right hon. Baronet, who was then the Chancellor of the Exchequer, to this matter, and the right hon. Gentleman told him that if the experiments of the Department of Agriculture were successful he would do everything in his power to encourage an industry which would be of great advantage to Ireland, and of some advantage to the people of this country. He believed that these experiments in various parts of Ireland where the tobacco had been grown had been fairly satisfactory, but he had been in hopes that some member of the Government would give the Committee details of the progress made. This year the present Chancellor of the Exchequer met a deputation of Irish Members in the most friendly manner, and said that he took a deep interest in the project of tobacco growing in Ireland, and that if the experiments were successful he would give every assistance in his power to assist in the revival of the industry. If the Vice-President of the Department of Agriculture, or somebody competent to represent him, had been in the House he believed that the Chancellor of the Exchequer would have been called upon to make good his word. All that he asked now was that the Attorney-General for Ireland would be good enough to direct attention to his remarks, and have some report made on the matter.

They heard a good deal of late, no doubt with truth, that there was a great desire amongst the English people to help in promoting the prosperity of Ireland without any injury to themselves. This was a subject which deeply affected the prosperity of Ireland, because if it could be shown that tobacco culture could be successfully engaged in, a very great industry would grow up in that country. Outside agriculture there was really no employment in the rural districts for young men and women, and here was an industry perfectly adapted to an agricultural population, in which large numbers of young men and women might be employed with great advantage to themselves and the country. The cultivation of tobacco in Ireland was distinctly provided for in the Act of Union; and any Member who looked up the Articles of the Act would find that in Article 6 regulations were laid down for the exportation of tobacco from Ireland to this country, and also as to the conditions under which tobacco might be grown in Ireland. A law was, however, passed in 1831 prohibiting the growing of tobacco in Ireland. That was really a breach of the Act of Union. He and his friends were sometimes denounced because they demanded the repeal of the Act of Union; but with reference to tobacco this House repealed that Act when it passed the Act of 1831. That only made the Irish case harder, because it showed that when it suited England, England did not regard the Act of Union as sacred. It might appear a trivial matter; but it was a matter in which great and growing interest was taken in Ireland. Some of the best tobacco manufacturers in the world, some of the most independent, and some who had made the best fight against trusts and monopolies of the trade, were in Ireland; and several of them expressed the greatest desire to do everything in their power to give this industry fair play. What he asked the Government to do was to repeal the Act which prohibited the growing of tobacco in Ireland. When they heard of nothing but preferential tariffs, when that question was convulsing the Cabinet itself, they simply asked that sufficient encouragement should be given to the people of Ireland to establish this industry once more, and he had no doubt that if they got a fair chance they would be able to show that tobacco-growing as an industry in Ireland would be able to hold its own. But unless they received encouragement from the Government it would be impossible for them to effect anything. He knew that the Chancellor of the Exchequer took some interest in the matter, and he hoped that the right hon. Gentleman would acquaint himself with the opinion of the Minister in charge of the Agricultural Department in Ireland. He had already been able to place the matter very slightly before the Chancellor of the Exchequer, who gave him some encouragement. He did not know whether the Chancellor of the Exchequer was in a position to make any statement on the matter now; but if he did not, it was not because the right hon. Gentleman's interest was lost, but because he was not yet satisfied upon all matters on which he had asked for information. It was really a practical question which might mean a great deal to a large number of people in Ireland. A Report of a Committee of this House, under the chairmanship of Sir Henry Parnell, a relative of the great Irish Leader, would fortify every statement he had made on the subject. There was a real desire on the part of the Irish farmers to re-establish what was once a thriving industry in their country. He was obliged to the Committee for the attention they had given him, and he hoped that when hon. Gentlemen heard of Irish tobacco they would not turn away from it.

*SIR FREDERICK WILLS (Bristol, N.) said he was not, of course, the Member for the tobacco trade in the House, because the trade was not qualified to elect a Member; but, as the only Member present who was connected with the trade, he wished to say that, as far as he knew, there could be no feeling whatever on the part of tobacco manufacturers against tobacco being grown in Ireland. All he could say was, that if tobacco could be grown in Ireland, and well grown, tobacco manufacturers would hail it with delight. Why not? It was a matter of supreme indifference to the manufacturers where the tobacco came from as long as it was of good quality. As far as the revenue was concerned, that was a matter for the Chancellor of the Exchequer. No doubt his right hon. friend would be able to guard the revenue. But so far as tobacco manufacturers were concerned, there would be no prejudice whatever against tobacco grown in Ireland. Of course, those who knew anything about the business were aware that in tobacco growing very much depended on the soil and climate, and if the Irish agriculturists were able to produce an article that was acceptable to the public, he, for one, did not see why they should not be allowed to do so. He was a sympathiser and a friend of Ireland, indeed, he supposed that every hon. Member was a friend of Ireland, although they might have different ways of expressing their friendship.

THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER (Mr. RITCHIE, Croydon) said that, in accordance with the promise he made to the hon. Member for Clare, he had communicated with the Department of Agriculture in Dublin with the view of receiving from them a report as to the success or non-success of experiments in tobacco culture in Ireland. He had not yet received a reply; but, of course, they should all be glad to encourage in Ireland the growth of tobacco, if it were possible to do so; but it would be useless to attempt to bolster up an industry if the soil and climate were not adapted for it. That would not be a kindness to any country. But if he was satisfied from the report he received that experiments on a larger scale were, in the opinion of the Department, desirable, he should endeavour to make some arrangements by which such experiments might be carried out.

MR. FIELD (Dublin, St. Patrick) said he entirely agreed with the remarks of his hon. friend the Member for East Clare with respect to tobacco growing; but a great many other matters also required attention. A large portion of the Irish population depended upon agriculture yet a comparatively small sum was devoted to the purposes of the Department for Agriculture.

And, it being half-past Seven of the clock, the Chairman left the Chair to make his Report to the House.

Resolutions to be reported To-morrow; Committee also report Progress; to sit again this evening.

EVENING SITTING.

SUPPLY [18TH ALLOTTED DAY].

Considered in Committee:—

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. JEFFREYS (Hampshire, N.) in the Chair.]

CIVIL SERVICES AND REVENUE DEPARTMENTS ESTIMATES, 1903–4.

CLASS III.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a sum, not exceeding £33,600, be granted to His Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1904, for criminal prosecutions and other law charges in Ireland."

MR. J. P. FARRELL (Longford, N.) said he put down a Motion to reduce this Vote by £500, for the purpose of calling attention to the inconceivably mean conduct of the Government in respect to the conduct of a prosecution against himself in October last. He regretted the absence of the Chief Secretary for Ireland, because he was certain, from what he knew of his demeanour, as compared with that of the Attorney-General for Ireland, that he would have received more favourable consideration at the hands of the Chief Secretary than he would at the hands of the Attorney General. It was now nearly twelve months since the Irish Government imposed coercion on Ireland. The proclamations issued in the first instance only embraced a few counties, but in the month of September further proclamations were issued which embraced a considerable part of Ireland, including the county and borough of Longford. At this time there was no crime of any description in Longford.

Within one week of the proclamation imposing coercion in that district, he, the representative of Longford in this House, was duly summoned on five counts to take his trial before two removable magistrates. The trial took place, and Dr. Faulkner, the legal gentleman prosecuting, stated that he appeared by the direction of the Attorney-General to prosecute for intimidation and incitement to intimidate certain persons. During the progress of the trial, which created a vast amount of interest, the spectators who came to see were treated with great rudeness, some of the most respectable people and largest ratepayers of Longford being hustled out of Court. As a matter of course, the magistrates convicted him, and sentenced him to five terms of five months' imprisonment, of which three months in each term were with hard labour and two months without. Had not the word concurrent, or whatever the legal term was, been put into the sentence, he would have had to have served two years and one month. As it was, the sentence only amounted to fifteen months altogether. The usual appeal was entered, and came on for trial before Judge Curran in the following October. The cardinal point he desired to make against the Attorney-General was this. In the course of that appeal considerable stress was laid upon the fact that, independent of his representing Longford in this House, he held responsible positions in Longford itself, being a member of the County Council, and a member of the Board of Poor Law Guardians. He, personally, did not care except for the principle involved. It was pointed out to Judge Curran that if the term of hard labour was enforced, under the Local Government Act he would become disqualified from holding these offices, and Dr. Faulkner got up and stated that he was instructed to press for the severest penalties, and that if hard labour was not imposed a great portion of the effect that the trial was intended to have would be lost. He considered that that was hitting below the belt in a most un-Irish way. For a great Imperial Government like this, with its great majority in this Chamber, to descend to the meanness of instructing its Castle hack to press a Judge to impose this penalty on a man entitled to a seat in this House, was an Act for which the hon. Gentleman and his collegues should justly hang their heads with shame. To take advantage of a mere technicality in an Act of Parliament to inflict vindictive vengeance—for there was no other word for it—on a political opponent, merely because he discharged his duty towards the country which gave him birth, and which he was anxious to see placed upon a plane of equality and prosperity with that of other nations, was unworthy of any Government that ever sat in this House.

He did not ask the Attorney-General to undo the act which had been done in his name and at his request, but he asked hon. and right hon. Gentlemen sitting on both sides of the House whether it was fair that, when the criminal law was put into operation against any Member of this House, its operation should extend, not merely to his punishment for the offence of which he might have been guilty, but that it should operate afterwards in such a way as to deprive him for ever of sitting either on a Board of Guardians or a County Council, while at the same time he was entitled to come and vote in this House, where his vote counted as much as that of the Prime Minister or the Colonial Secretary. The position was untenable, and it was a travesty of government to say that they should be able to treat their political opponents in that fashion. The result of the appeal was that the sentence of five months with hard labour was reduced to three months with hard labour. All the same—the hard labour having been retained—he was disqualified from acting as a County Councillor and Poor Law Guardian, but—the absurdity of it—he was not disqualified from acting and voting as a Member of the Imperial Parliament. Altogether twelve Members of Parliament were prosecuted and sentenced, but only in this case were instructions given by the Crown to have the hard labour retained. He asked the Attorney-General for Ireland to explain why it was that this disgraceful action was taken against him in order to drive him from representative positions in Longford. As a protest he moved to reduce the salary of the right hon. Gentleman by £500.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That Item A (Salaries) be reduced by £500, in respect of the Salary of the Attorney-General for Ireland."—(*Mr. J. P. Farrell.*)

MR. JOSEPH DEVLIN (Kilkenny, N.) said in rising to support the Motion of the hon. Member for Longford he did not approach this matter as a personal grievance. He supported the Motion because, in his judgment, the act of the hon. and learned Gentleman was one which vitally affected the local government of Ireland. Eulogistic tributes were passed from time to time on the various local Councils of Ireland; the administrators of those Councils in the West were his colleagues in this House, leaders of the United Irish League in Connaught, Waterford and Mayo. It was simply because these men, as public representatives, chose to raise their voices in favour of Irish land for the Irish people, a principle which had since been incorporated in the measure of the Chief Secretary, that they had been compelled to suffer, not only imprisonment, but to mix with common fellows, eat prison food, and undergo prison fatigue. No member of the Irish Party demanded special treatment for himself, and his colleague who had suffered under the Coercion Act had been content to suffer, but there could be nothing more despicable on the part of the Government than to try and rob the people of the poorer districts of Ireland of the services of those who had proved themselves such splendid administrators of the County Council Act by imposing hard labour upon them. He did not know the intention of the House in putting this clause into the Local Government Act. He was not in the House when it was passed, but of this he was certain, that the House never intended it should be used as a weapon by the Government against their political opponents. The clause was intended to cover ordinary offences against the law of the land, but as a matter of fact Members of Parliament, County Councillors, District and Urban Councillors, were being prosecuted under it and prevented thereby from serving on those bodies on which, by the application of their ability and capacity, they might be able to build up the fortunes of the little communities in which they lived. It was a mean and dastardly policy, and he awaited with some interest the justification by the Attorney-General of the attitude taken up by the law officers on his instructions. Was it not a most peculiar position of affairs that a man who was a Member of the Imperial Senate was denied the right of sitting on the Longford County Council? Would the right hon. Gentleman be decent enough to endeavour to do something to change that anomalous and disgraceful condition of affairs? The Coercion Act had been withdrawn; the Government had taken the United Irish League to its bosom, and yet many members of the Party had been sent to gaol for preaching the doctrines of land reform, which constituted the very essence of the Bill which the Chief Secretary had been passing through that House. If the peace of which so much had been heard was to be permanent some means must be fund to remove this disqualifications from his hon. friend.

There was one other point he desired to discuss. He wished to know why the police in Belfast had instituted a system of espionage and petty prosecution against members of the local branch of the league. The Nationalist Members of Parliament, who represented the United Irish League in that House, were largely responsible for keeping the present Government in power. Gratitude was defined sometimes as a lively sense of favours to come; he preferred to treat it as a recognition of past benefits, and, seeing that the United Irish League was responsible for having kept the Government in power, was it not rather too bad that the humble members of that body in the great city of Belfast should be prevented by the police from exercising their right to keep up a political movement in Ireland that enabled the Government to retain office. He protested against the action of the police in going round to the houses of these men and entering their names in note books for the sole purpose of intimidating them. He protested also against the issue by the police of summonses against the members of a band because they threatened to bring a certain matter before Parliament. He did not say that the Chief Secretary or Attorney-General was responsible for that.

*THE DEPUTY-CHAIRMAN: Unless the hon. Member can show that the Attorney-General is responsible he will be out of order in discussing the matter.

MR. DILLON: I maintain on the point of order that the Attorney-General is responsible for all prosecutions under the present system of Irish law.

*THE DEPUTY-CHAIRMAN said he interrupted because the hon. Member himself said he could not attribute this action to the Attorney-General.

MR. DILLON: Still the right hon. Gentleman is responsible.

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL FOR IRELAND (Mr. ATKINSON, Londonderry, N.): The Government are not responsible for these prosecutions.

MR. JOSEPH DEVLIN: Who is then?

MR. ATKINSON: The police. I am not.

MR. JOSEPH DEVLIN said that surely the Minister responsible for the conduct of all prosecutions in Ireland was the Attorney-General. He was at any rate responsible to the House and must settle the matter with the local authorities. He ought not to allow the police authorities to carry on such a high-handed policy. Let the Chief Secretary open his eyes to what was going on in Ireland, and see that humble working men were not persecuted in a most contemptible fashion by the police, as they were now terrorised in the city of Belfast.

*MR. P. J. O'BRIEN (Tipperary, N.) desired to know on what ground three men in his constituency had been returned for trial at Cork Assizes instead of being sent for trial in the usual course at Nenagh. Could the right hon. Gentleman say why a fairer trial could be held at Cork than at Nenagh. He understood the case had been disposed of that day by the men being allowed to return to their homes on their own recognisances, but why had they been put to the expense and inconvenience of going to Cork. The Chief Secretary had given them to understand in answer to Questions that if necessary the Irish Government would exercise the powers vested in them in in order to secure a fair and impartial trial, meaning to pack the jury for their conviction. Under these circumstances he (Mr. O'Brien) had given notice of his intention to move the reduction of the right hon. the Attorney-General's salary by £500 in order to open up this whole case, but now that the Government had very properly reconsidered their position and allowed these men their liberty he would merely content himself by again requesting to know on what grounds it was considered a fair trial could not be had at Nenagh.

*MR. DELANY (Queen's Co., Ossory) asked who was responsible for the custom of making the bogus police returns on which the Judges of Assize founded their political addresses. Such speeches were not allowed to be made by English Judges in charging Grand Juries, and why should it be permitted in Ireland? There was more crime in England than in Ireland, and why should the administration of the law in Ireland be thus degraded. Under that Vote they were being called upon to pay the expenses of the coercion *régime* in Ireland; they had in fact to pay the piper for the insults and indignities heaped upon hon. Members. There was the case of the hon. Member for South Kildare, who was found guilty by a packed jury. He maintained that a special course had been pursued with regard to him simply because he was a political opponent, and that the Crown Solicitor, who had since resigned his position in disgust, was compelled by his instructors to select a jury from a list of forty-six marked names on a panel of 220 jurors. At that same Assize two prisoners were tried for murder under the ordinary law by ordinary jurors, and convictions obtained in both cases. Why was a different policy pursued in regard to the hon. Member for South Kildare? The people of Ireland complained more of the corrupt and partisan administration of justice than of the law itself. He had no sympathy with packed juries. It happened on one occasion that he was on a packed jury himself, but he saved the situation. He was half sworn before the Crown Solicitor realised the fact, and then it was too late to challenge him. The right hon. and learned Member for North Tyrone was in the case—for the defence—while the present Solicitor-General prosecuted. It was the first time he served on a jury, and he was never in such a warm corner before or since. There were signs on this side and signs on that side of him, and soon his fellow-jurors spotted that he was not in the know—they saw he was the wrong man. But he saved the situation. How could they expect the people to respect the law when it was thus administered? Such conduct simply brought it into contempt. The result of the treatment meted out to the hon. Member for South Kildare was that the people sent him to Parliament. Had the Attorney-General dared oppose his return he would soon have got his answer from the electors of South Kildare.

MR. DILLON said that when the Local Government Act was under consideration he saw the danger of the particular clause to which reference had been made, and he moved an Amendment to eliminate this disqualification from the Order in Council, which, he then declared, if it were allowed to remain would probably be used by the Government for the purpose of disqualifying and punishing their political opponents. The idea was laughed to scorn, and the suggestion that the Government could be guilty of such base and contemptible motives was declared to be an outrage on the House of Commons. His words, however, had been absolutely verified. Hard labour had been imposed for the specific purpose of disqualifying local leaders from serving on the councils, and he contended that no Government, even in Ireland, had ever been guilty of meaner or more contemptible conduct. To show the futility of such a policy, he instanced the case of a member of a local council who was sentenced to hard labour, and in addition had to listen to an atrocious tirade from the County Court Judge. What was the result? That man was about to be elected to a lucrative post under the council, which he could not have held had he been a member of the body. He hoped the Attorney-General would announce the intention of the Government to abandon this policy. If it were necessary to pass a one-clause Bill for the purpose, he thought nobody would object to it going through after midnight.

It had been announced in the newspapers in London, and generally believed, that in connection with the visit of His Majesty to Ireland, the Coercion Act had been completely suspended. That was not the case. The most odious provisions of the Act were still in force in many districts. Clauses 3 and 4 were still yet in operation, and it was ridiculous to talk about the Act being suspended while that was the case. He could not understand why the Government always seemed to do things by halves. During the last few months they had done much to promote good feeling in Ireland, and to remove many things against which the agitation of the United Irish League had been directed. But why did they not do the thing handsomely? If they desired to inaugurate an era of good feeling and peace in Ireland they must show the people that they meant to trust them; it could never be done by retaining, over a large portion of the country, the most objectionable clauses of the Crimes Act. A case in point was that referred to by the hon. Member for North Tipperary. Anything more preposterous than the action of the Government in that case could not be imagined. The charge was that of resisting the police—one of which no Tipperary man was much ashamed. The men were returning home peaceably after a meeting, when they found the road by which they had come barred by the police. They were asked to give an undertaking not to play bands while passing a certain house. They gave the undertaking, but the police continued to bar the road, and a little hustling took place. Thereupon the police drew their batons, and began smashing into the men. The Tipperary men, not understanding that method of argument, had recourse to their blackthorns, and an encounter ensued, in which the blackthorns got the better of the batons. The police were distinctly the aggressors. However, it was not necessary to pursue the subject further, as he understood the Government had practically dropped the charge. It ought to be realised by the Government that as long as Clauses 3 and 4 of the Crimes Act remained in force, and as long as County and District Councillors were subject to the disqualification to which reference had been made, the reign of peace which the Government were supposed to be anxious to promote would never be established.

MR. CULLINAN (Tipperary, S.) said the inclusion of the penal clauses in the Local Government Act for Ireland had been justified on the ground that it was also in the English Act, but there was really no analogy between the two cases. The law was never applied in England as in Ireland, and the statement of the hon. Member for East Mayo conclusively proved that this power was never intended to be used in the manner which had been described. Many instances, similar to that of the hon. Member for Longford, could be given. One was that of a colleague of his on the County Council in South Tipperary. This man, one of the most respected, intelligent, and useful members of the council, was prosecuted, and sentenced to six months' imprisonment with hard labour. He appealed, and the County Court Judge being ill a K.C. was sent down as a substitute to hear the appeal. An application was made that the hard labour should be remitted from the sentence, but the K.C. absolutely refused, the impression left on the mind of everybody being that he was qualifying for a judgeship later on. But the man was released before the term had expired. Surely if the Government remitted that portion of the sentence, they ought also to consider the further punishment inflicted by this disqualification.

Another case was that of Mr. Flannagan, who was sentenced to hard labour, and thus came under this disqualification. He was re-elected to the chairmanship of the District Council, but the Local Government Board wrote declaring that they could not, under any condition, allow him to act as chairman. It was really time for this penal clause to be removed from the Act. In one case the solicitor defending the defendants asked the resident magistrates not to disqualify the men from serving on the council by sentencing them to hard labour, and the magistrates actually declared that they were not aware that hard labour carried with it that disqualification. It was all very well to say that resident magistrates administered the law without bias or influence. It was an extraordinary fact that when the Act of 1887 was passed, a month's imprisonment was given in every case, but immediately after the Prime Minister at Manchester had scoffed at the idea of such short sentences they were increased to three months, and when Lord Salisbury shortly afterwards condemned the magistrates for giving inadequate punishment, the term was immediately lengthened to six months. It was a disgrace that any Government could be guilty of such base and cowardly conduct.

MR. O'DOWD (Sligo, S.) supported the Motion of the hon. Member for Longford, who, he thought, had been treated in a scandalous manner and one which reflected little credit on the administration of the law. He was not speaking of an individual, but of a county, which had been penalised. He referred to the county of Sligo. What was the position of affairs there at present? The Lord Chief Baron upon a recent occasion congratulated the Grand Jury and the people of the county of Sligo upon the peaceful state of the county. He said—

> "Not alone have I the privilege of congratulating you now, but on every occasion I come here on circuit I have the same story to tell."

Notwithstanding this statement the Government had claimed from the county of Sligo through the County Council £1,508 13s. for extra police used during the coercion *régime* of the last sixteen months. He did not deny that the county of Sligo was one of the foremost counties in pressing forward the agitation which had made the present Land Bill possible, and Sligo was the first county which sent hostages to prison. But while maintaining that fight in a fearless fashion the county of Sligo had always advanced their case by constitutional methods, notwithstanding the fact that the law officers might state that they had stepped across the line. It was absolutely scandalous and ridiculous to penalise a whole county to the tune of £1,500 or £1,600 for police, which would mean a rate of 10½d. in the £. If that penalty was not either withdrawn or the money allocated from some other fund, the boon of the Land Bill would not be well received by the people of Sigo. How had this police tax come about? Two or three gentlemen who held estates in several counties in Ireland took it into their heads to take and grab accommodation grazing farms situated in the centre of congested districts, in order to add to their incomes, thereby depriving the unfortunate people of the chances they had of allowing their cattle to graze on those lands for six months. For the sake of buttressing up this system of land jobbery of two individuals who held between 1,600 and 1,700 acres of land in grazing farms, this police tax had been incurred. For the sake of these two obnoxious individuals the poor people of the county of Sligo were to be mulcted to the extent of £1,500. It was absolutely scandalous. Many districts of the county of Sligo had not a single extra policeman during the coercion *régime*, and although they had nothing to do with the agitation, they would be mulcted to the tune of a 10½d. rate. As the Chairman of the Sligo County Council he would inform the Committee that the County Council would refuse to act as bailiffs of the Government for the collection of this tax, and they would probably have to subtract it from the local taxation grant.

MR. O'KELLY (Mayo, N.): said he was quite in accord with the sentiments of his hon. friend who had just spoken. The object of this imposition was to penalise counties for taking part in a political propaganda in which the leaders were put in prison in order that the county might be deprived of the services of those men. It was perfectly plain that Dublin Castle could penalise representative men by giving removable magistrates instructions as to the decisions the Government desired to be given. He might say that he had spent some of the happiest months of his life in prison, and there were few places so inviting to him as one of His Majesty's prisons in Ireland In these prosecutions the resident magistrates took their cue from Dublin Castle, which was given to them by the Crown Prosecutor He thought it was intolerable that the power of inflicting hard labour on men should be given to magistrates who were dependent for their existence upon the favour of Dublin Castle. If those magistrates refused to carry out the dictates of Dublin Castle they had to go, and so they played the game, and were willing to act upon any instructions which were given to them. In regard to the matter mentioned by the hon. Member for South Sligo, it was perfectly monstrous that the county of Sligo, which was one of the most peaceful places in Ireland, should be mulcted in this large tax. He would like to know what number of police the people of Sligo were entitled to in ordinary times. These police seemed to be drafted in for the purpose of penalising the ratepayers. He thought the County Council of Sligo was quite justified in refusing to collect this rate. The result would be that the money would be filched from the agricultural grant. If the Government desired peace in Ireland those penal institutions must go. The peace must be genuine on both sides. There was now in Ireland a disposition to forget and forgive, but there could be no real forgetfulness or forgiveness until penal clauses of this kind were repealed.

MR. FIELD said he hoped when the Attorny-General replied he would tell them the real reason why Dublin City was proclaimed. A more scandalous outrage than the proclamation of that city he never heard of. He trusted they would have a satisfactory reply as to why the citizens of Dublin were put under the Coercion Act when crime was almost unknown in Dublin. He thought he was entitled to a fair and square answer to that question.

MR. ATKINSON said there seemed to be an opinion that no person should suffer who happened to be a Member of Parliament or a member of a County Council. He held that crime might be committed, and often was committed, in furtherance of an agitation. He thought intimidation was a crime, and it was in the endeavour to grapple with that crime, so widely spread in Ireland, that the Crimes Act was applied. The answer why Dublin had been proclaimed had been most effectively given before by the Chief Secretary, and he could only repeat the same answer. He did not wish to go into matters such as the extra police, which were entirely foreign to this Vote. Several hon. Members had asked questions with regard to the number of extra police sent here and there, but those were matters which would arise upon the Vote for the Police and not upon the Vote for Law Charges. The hon. Member for Kilkenny asked some questions in regard to alleged espionage by the police, but that question would arise on the Police Vote. He was not aware of the cases mentioned, and, as far as he knew, they were ordinary prosecutions for offences in the street taken by the police upon their own responsibility and did not come at all before the legal authorities.

MR. DILLON: Who would answer for them?

MR. ATKINSON said the Chief Secretary would answer for them if they never went further than ordinary police prosecutions. Ordinary cases before the magistrates were dealt with on the spot without being taken up by the Attorney-General. If he had received notice of this Question he would have taken care to have informed himself as to the facts. It had been stated again and again that magistrates had come to such and such decisions at the behests of the Government.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL (Donegal, S.): Hear, hear!

MR. ATKINSON said the hon. Member cried "Hear, hear," but as far as he knew that was a monstrous misstatement. He himself would scorn to do anything of the kind; he never did such a thing; he never knew it to be done, directly or indirectly. He had heard many accusations of this kind, and never heard one particle of proof to sustain them. He thought those persons who made such allegations ought to be called upon to produce some evidence in support of such charges before they made them. Such charges made without proof might be more derogatory to the persons making them than to those against whom they were made. Resident magistrates had never been summoned to Dublin Castle to receive instructions.

MR. KILBRIDE (Kildare, S.) asked whether they were not invited to luncheon at Dublin Castle when the proclamations were issued, and what was the object?

MR. ATKINSON was not aware whether they were asked to Dublin Castle to luncheon, but if they were, it was certainly not to receive instructions as to how they were to decide on any pending cases.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL: They went there to get instructions.

MR. ATKINSON: It was not to get instructions on any case that might come before them.

MR. KILBRIDE: What did they go for?

MR. ATKINSON said it was not to get instructions, either secretly or by suggestion, that they should sentence persons who came before them to hard labour in order to disqualify them from acting as county councillors. With regard to the cases in which punishment had involved disqualification from service on Councils, it was trifling with justice to say that a man was to be let off from due and adequate punishment because he was a county councillor. [A NATIONALIST MEMBER: Nobody asks that.] He should have thought the fact that a man occupied the position of county councillor, and was looked up to by his constituency and those around him, was all the more reason for his being more severely dealt with than an ordinary man, because his example was more vicious. He had never heard it suggested that because a man occupied a position of trust or public importance he was not to be as severely punished as a man in a more humble position, provided always that the punishment was not undue or improper. With regard to the case of the hon. Member for North Longford, he did not propose to argue out the law affecting it, or to say whether the language complained of came within the statute, for the House of Commons was the very worst place for such a discussion. The hon. Member was tried by the magistrates and convicted. He appealed to the County Court Judge, who upheld the decision of the magistrates. But he would have been let off on appeal altogether if he had promised not to repeat the crime. The hon. Member did not accept that offer.

MR. J. P. FARRELL: If you had been in my place, would you, under the circumstances, have accepted?

MR. ATKINSON: No, but I would not have been in your situation.

MR. DILLON: You will not be too hard on the United Irish League now.

MR. ATKINSON said the hon. Member for North Longford had implied that the sentence of hard labour was passed at his suggestion, because he was a county councillor.

MR. J. P. FARRELL said he quoted what the Attorney-General's own representative stated.

MR. ATKINSON said it was not his business to tell the Court what sentence should be passed. His business was to advise upon the evidence, and to see that it was presented in Court in the most fair way. He had never directly or indirectly sought to interfere with the Court or endeavoured secretly to obtain a conviction. He did not know that his representative had pressed for severe punishment, but that was a perfectly legitimate course to take.

MR. J. P. FARRELL said he could send the Attorney-General a report of the case, showing that Dr. Faulkner stated that he was instructed to press for a severe punishment.

MR. ATKINSON said that was an entirely different thing from secretly or openly telling the Judge that he ought to decide in a particular way

MR. J. P. FARRELL said the right hon. Gentleman should not misconstrue what he said. What he said was that his counsel pointed out to the County Court Judge that if hard labour was retained in the sentence he would be disqualified from acting as a county councillor or a Poor Law guardian. Dr. Faulkner stated that his instructions were that hard labour was necessary, and that the consequent disqualification was necessary to prevent him from committing the same offence.

MR. ATKINSON said the hon. Member seemed to imply that hard labour was inflicted upon him because he was a county councillor. That was not the case. The Judge did not take into consideration the question of disqualification, but merely passed a sentence adequate to the crime. He was not in a position to make the declaration asked for by the hon. Member for East Mayo; and he passed from this case with the remark that he utterly and absolutely repudiated the idea that either resident magistrates or County Court Judges, in obedience to any suggestion from the Crown, or in pursuance of any policy indicated by the Crown, ever resort to inflict hard labour for the improper purpose of indirectly subjecting the convicted person to disqualification. He had never known a single particle of evidence in support of that. With reference to the Tipperary case, he changed the venue to Cork because he thought a fairer trial would be secured. Every sixpence of the additional cost would be paid by the Crown. It was the ordinary right of a civilian to have a change of venue.

MR. DILLON: He could not pack the jury.

MR. ATKINSON said the men pleaded guilty.

MR. DILLON reminded the right hon. Gentleman that innocent men might be convicted in Ireland on the sort of evidence Sheridan gave.

MR. ATKINSON said the Judge allowed them out on £5, with a warning to behave better in future. He hoped they would take this to heart, but if they acted in a similar way again, and were convicted, they would probably not get off so lightly. With regard to Mr. Kilbride's case, he must say that the hon. Member had borne his punishment like a man, and that he had displayed a commendable good temper and courtesy since he had returned to the House.

MR. KILBRIDE said he would inform the Attorney-General that, if the necessity arose, Mr. Kilbride was prepared to do the same thing again.

MR. ATKINSON said he did not intend to go into the particulars of the case, or to argue one way or another whether the verdict was right or wrong, but only to deal with the suggestion of unfairness. It was a case arising out of certain dealings by General Meres with a tenant of his, and the hon. Member went to the estate and made a speech, for which he was tried and convicted.

[AN HON. MEMBER ON THE IRISH BENCHES: By a packed jury.]

*MR. DELANY: If I were accused before the same jury they would hang me.

MR. ATKINSON said he was thankful to the hon. Member for having referred to the jury. This was a way in which the Crown Solicitor packed the jury! Dr. Todd, the Crown Solicitor, got a panel and marked it, but when he went down he heard that there were planters in the district, and he came to the conclusion that planters would be unfair to the accused. He then went to the solicitor of the accused, and asked him if there were any jurors on the panel who, in his opinion, would be hostile to his client, because, if he would point them out, he woul challenge them on behalf of the Crown. The defendant's solicitor stated that there was a strong feeling among the planters, and Dr. Todd decided to set aside every planter. Accordingly, twelve men were set aside by the Crown as likely to be hostile to the accused. The defendant's solicitor also objected to three others as prejudiced. Dr. Todd inquired, and he found that, in his opinion, there was no evidence of that. This was on the day before the trial. Dr. Todd thought that these three men were fair. However, while the jury was being empanelled the defendant's solicitor challenged one, which was allowed, so that out of a panel of forty, thirteen were set aside at the direct suggestion of the solicitor of the accused.

MR. DILLON: How many Catholics were on that jury?

MR. ATKINSON said he did not know, but he knew that thirteen Protestants were set aside. That was a fair specimen of how things were done. He did not think it was humanly possible for a prosecution to be conducted with more absolute fairness to the accused. As to the change of venue, it was quite competent to the hon. Member to have objected to that, but he did not do so.

MR. DILLON said that what he had stated was that, in Catholic Queen's County, there was a jury of eleven Protestants and one Catholic, and yet the Attorney-General said that it was not a packed jury.

MR. ATKINSON said that at all events he had only stated what was reported to him by the Crown Solicitor; and he thought that it was a striking instance of an absolute desire on the part of the Crown Solicitor to do what was right.

MR. DILLON said that the Attorney-General had not stated whether the Proclamation would be removed.

MR. ATKINSON said that he had no information, and could not make any announcement on that point.

MR. KILBRIDE said he could not accept the statement which the Attorney-General had made on the information of the Crown Solicitor of what took place at his trial. He supposed that no prisoner ever accused by an Irish Government for a criminal offence had had the same experience as he had. While he was in prison at Maryborough, he himself had actually seen the special jury panel of 240 names of men in the Queen's County. He had it before him, and it was marked in blue and red pencil by Dublin Castle.

MR. ATKINSON: Marked by the Crown Solicitor.

MR. KILBRIDE: Was the Crown Solicitor not part and parcel of Dublin Castle? Neither the Crown Solicitor for West Meath, nor the Crown Solicitor for Queen's County marked that panel; but a certain gentleman who was the most prominent Unionist in Queen's County. Everybody knew that that was the case, and that he did it with the aid of his own clerk from information received from the police. The right hon. Gentleman stated that his solicitor had got thirteen Protestant gentlemen put off the jury; but every one of them, although a Protestant, was a Home Ruler as well as a sympathiser with the tenants. Why was William Davidson, a Scotch gentleman, who had lived the better part of his life in Ireland, retired? It was because he had been constantly giving evidence in the Land Courts on behalf of the tenants as a land valuer. Would the Attorney-General give the name of one man who was ordered to stand by who was not a Liberal and a Home Ruler, and the name of one man who was kept on who was not a Unionist and possibly an Orangeman. He wished to state that his solicitor informed him that the conversation between him and Dr. Todd took place on the day of the trial, and not before it as the Attorney-General had alleged. The right hon. Gentleman stated that the Crown never interfered with the resident magistrates in their decision, and never suggested what sentences were to be given. He would ask the right hon. Gentleman how it was that the resident magistrates happened to be down at Dublin Castle when the Proclamation of the Crimes Act was made? He meant the principal resident magistrates—those whom the authorities in Dublin Castle knew they had most confidence in. Were they asked to lunch? And what was the *ménu*? Was there anything about hard labour in it? Was it on the soup, or on the dessert? *Ménu* cards could be got up which would suggest certain things in just as good a way as by giving direct instructions They knew the right hon. Gentleman was a man of more than mediocre ability; and surely with his great ability, and the light of his Irish wit, he would be able to devise means of conveying to resident magistrates what Dublin Castle wanted without doing it in a clumsy fashion. That it was done he was as certain as that the right hon. Gentleman was at that moment sitting on the Treasury Bench. If a resident magistrate were not a reliable tool of Dublin Castle he was sent back with God speed. If he was a reliable tool, he was brought to some place where he was likely to be useful.

Certain hon. Members had suggested to the Government the desirability of a man of his own name being brought in, in connection with the Crimes Act; but, notwithstanding thefriendly suggestion, that was not done. The resident magistrate who did not carry out the behests, or what he believed to be the behests, of Dublin Castle, would be sent to the most remote parts of Ireland. Then the right hon. Gentleman said that the County Court Judge who sent his hon. friend the Member for North Longford to hard labour did not take into consideration whether he was a county councillor or district councillor—that he only took into his consideration the offence. Why did not the same County Court Judge send his hon. friend the Member for the Birr Division of King's County to hard labour? Why did he remove the hard labour part of the sentence? The difference was entirely due to the fact that, during the time that had elapsed between the sentence of his hon. friend the Member for North Longford and his hon. friend the Member for the Birr Division of King's County, certain comments had appeared in the Press, and public opinion was at work. Because of that public opinion Judge Curran removed the hard labour part of the sentence on his hon. friend the Member for the Birr Division, because he said he did not think the county should be deprived of his valuable services on the County Boards. What was the difference in criminality between his two hon. friends? Both got hard labour from the resident magistrate; in one case, Judge Curran confirmed the hard labour, in the other case he removed it. Would the right hon. Gentleman say whether that was due to the effect of public opinion or to any difference in the offences of his two hon. friends. Perhaps it was because his hon. friend the Member for the Birr Divis on was not a newspaper proprietor, and that he was thought to be more harmless. Reverting to the Maryborough case, he would ask how it was that the Government found it necessary to summon 240 special jurors to try one case under the Crimes Act.

MR. ATKINSON said that under the Act the whole panel should be summoned.

MR. KILBRIDE said it looked curious to the uninitiated. He thought that the 118 common jurors who had been summoned to try eighteen cases, two being capital offences, for which a man and a woman were hanged, would have been sufficient to try one Crimes Act case. That was the kind of thing that brought the law into contempt in Ireland. They all knew that Westmeath was proclaimed for this one case; and that Queen's County was proclaimed also in order that the case might be tried there. The charge against him was not of having taken part in a conspiracy in some hole and corner fashion, not of having run away from the light of day, or of having done anything in the dark. The charge against him was that in the middle of the day, with armed policemen around, and with a police notetaker, surrounded by six policemen, in the centre of the crowd he made use of certain words. What convicted him was that having told a good teetotal story the police notetaker was unable to report it properly. The story he related referred to a clergyman, a friend of his, who was a strong advocate of temperance. Sunday after Sunday he extorted his congregation in the direction of temperance and against excessive drink. He was in the habit of saying:—

> "Why are you not able to pay your rent? Drink, the cursed drink! Why is it that you are evicted and thrown on the road by your landlord? Drink, the cursed drink! Why when you are evicted do you form criminal

conspiracies? Drink, the cursed drink! Why do you fire at your landlord? Drink, the cursed drink! Why do you miss him? Drink, the cursed drink!"

It was because of that story, told in the interests of temperance, that he was convicted. He should have said that the meeting was proclaimed; there was a great deal of excitement; and they drew up at the first cross-roads they arrived at, knowing there was a police cordon half a mile further on. They all knew how difficult it was for even a practised shorthand writer to accurately report a speech, even when sitting at a table. How much more difficult it must have been for the police notetaker, standing in the middle of a crowd, surrounded by police and with the crowd taking every favourable opportunity of giving him a push. The right hon. Gentleman had no experience of that. No doubt £5,000 a year of Government salary would not give him any practical experience in such matters. The police shorthand writer was fairly capable; but he jumbled up his own statements with certain interruptions in the crowd. The story came out very badly, and did not appear as if it was spoken in the interest of temperance, although it was. At any rate, he claimed he had a right to be tried by a jury which was composed of neither Orangemen nor Freemasons. He did not object to be tried by a Protestant jury. He was prepared on any charge to go before any impartial Protestant jury in Queen's County; but he was not in favour of going before a Protestant jury from which every man known to be a Liberal in politics, or a sympathiser with the United Irish League, or with the tenants, was religiously excluded by the right hon. Gentleman and his representatives. It was a great thing for Irish nationality that in Queen's County the Government were unable to pack a jury without objecting to every man who had any respect for the views and sentiments of Tone and Fitzgerald. All he had to tell the right hon. Gentleman was that whatever the future might have in store for Irish Nationalists—and he hoped they had passed all trouble and difficulty—he was with his hon. friend the Member for East Mayo when he said that whoever else had changed they had not changed. Six months imprisonment in Mountjoy Prison had not changed his views; and it only confirmed the view he had held for twenty-five years that nothing had ever been got, or would ever be got, from the British Government except by opposition. Every concession Ireland had received from the Imperial Parliament had been wrung from it; and further concessions would be wrung from it.

MR. T. W. RUSSELL asked if the gentleman referred to was still Crown Solicitor.

MR. ATKINSON was understood to reply in the affirmative.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND said he wished to call attention to what he considered the very hard case of two of his constituents. The hon. Member for Tipperary had been good enough to refer to the matter in his absence; but he did not gather from the Attorney-General's speech that he made any reply at all. As the Attorney-General well knew, the cases to which he wished to refer were those of the chairman of the rural district council and the chairman of the board of guardians at Corofin, in his constituency, who were imprisoned under the Crimes Act; and because they were sentenced to hard labour they were now deprived of all right to exercise their duties on the local councils to which they were elected. As far as these two men—Mr. Flannagan and Mr. Griffin—were concerned they did not object to hard labour; but they considered it a great hardship to be deprived, by that hard labour, of the right of sitting on the local boards on their release. It might seem quite right to hon. Members representing English constituencies that where a man was convicted of an offence sufficiently serious to deserve hard labour he should be deprived of the right of sitting on a local council. But a local councillor in England who was sentenced to hard labour must have committed some serious offence which everyone would condemn; but the so-called offences in Ireland did not exist in England at all. It was a totally different matter in Ireland, because a man was convicted for an offence which had no existence in

England. These offences were political and certainly agrarian; and it was a monstrous injustice that such men should not only have to suffer imprisonment but should also be deprived of their rights to represent their fellow-countrymen in elected positions. Mr. Flannagan, as a result of his imprisonment, became for a considerable period insane, and had to be sent to a lunatic asylum from the prison. Altogether it has been an extremely painful case, and was the subject of a long inquiry. Mr. Flannagan finally recovered, and the people, who had the greatest confidence in him, re-elected him to the position of chairman of the district council. He was, however, told by the Dublin Castle authorities that if he continued to act he would be subjected to severe penalties. He appealed to the right hon. Gentleman as to whether such acts were not calculated to create disorder more than anything else in the district. The Crimes Act had now been removed, the whole thing was past and over, and he seriously asked the Attorney-General if he intended to pursue the matter further and prevent these two gentlemen from acting in their representative capacity.

MR. ATKINSON said Mr. Flannagan was disqualified by statute, and it was impossible for the Government to waive that disqualification. The request of the hon. Member for East Mayo that the Government should bring in a Bill to repeal the disqualifying provision was a different matter.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND asked what penalties would be imposed on Mr. Flannagan if he continued to act.

MR. ATKINSON said that very expensive proceedings might be taken to set aside an order made by him, and he might be very heavily mulcted in costs.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND said that then they were led to understand that in order to pursue Mr. Flannagan the whole district was to be kept in a state of turmoil and disturbance. The King would land in Ireland in a few hours; and it was an extraordinary thing to him that in one small district like that the Government should announce through the Attorney-General their intention of continuing that action. It would undoubtedly keep the district in a state of disorder. The people of the district were not to be trifled with, and while they were quite ready for peace if they were pursued further there would be unpleasant consequences.

MR. ATKINSON said that the hon. Gentleman asked him a legal question as to whether the Government would reinstate these gentlemen, and his reply was that the Government had no such power.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND said the Government need not proceed unless they liked. Certainly Mr. Flannagan would pursue the course he thought right, and he would be supported by the people of the district. If the Government desired turmoil and disorder, they would proceed against Mr. Flannagan; if not, they would allow the matter to lapse. He hoped the right hon. Gentleman would not challenge the people of this district to further action in the matter.

And, it being Midnight, the Chairman left the Chair to make his Report to the House.

Committee report Progress; to sit again upon Wednesday.

MILITARY WORKS [CONSOLIDATED FUND].

Committee to consider of making further provision for defraying the expenses of certain Military Works and other military services, and to authorise the issue out of the Consolidated Fund of such sums as may be required for those purposes (King's recommendation signified), this day.—(*Lord Stanley.*)

Adjourned at five minutes after Twelve o'clock.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Tuesday, 21*st July*, 1903.

COMMISSION.

The following Bills have received the Royal Assent:

1. County Councils (Bills in Parliament).

2. Education (Borrowing).

3. Contracts (India Office).

4. Guinea Postal Orders.

5. Elementary Education Amendment.

6. Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (Housing of the Working Classes).

7. Local Government Provisional Orders (Poor Law).

8. Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 9.)

9. Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 10.)

10. Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 12.)

11. Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 14.)

12. Local Government Provisional Order (No. 16.)

13. Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 17.)

14. Local Government Provisional Order (No. 18.)

15. Military Lands Provisional Orders.

16. Education Board Provisional Orders Confirmation (East Ham, etc.)

17. Hamilton Burgh Provisional Order.

18. Broughty Ferry Gas Provisional Order.

19. Electric Lighting Provisional Orders. (No. 5.)

20. Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 7.)

21. Pier and Harbour Provisional Orders (No. 6.)

22. Southampton Harbour.

23. King's College, London.

24. Scunthorpe Urban District Water.

25. Ipswich Gas.

26. Lanarkshire and Dumbartonshire Railway.

27. New Hunstanton Improvement.

28. British Gas Light Company (Norwich).

29. Hastings Tramways (Extensions.)

30. Jewish Colonisation Association.

31. Hampton Court Gas.

32. Charing Cross, Euston, and Hampstead Railway.

33. Wolverhampton and Cannock Chase Railway (Extension of Time).

34. London and North Western Railway.

35. Nantwich Urban District Council.

36. Sheffield and South Yorkshire Navigation.

37. Torquay Corporation Water.

38. Nelson Corporation.

39. West Cumberland Electric Tramways.

40. Fishguard and Rosslare Railways and Harbours.

41. Hexham Gas.

42. Cheshire Lines Committee.

43. Highland and Invergarry and Fort Augustus Railway Companies.

44. Port Talbot Railway and Docks.

45. Merthyr Tydfil Urban District Council.

46. Pontypridd Urban District Council.

47. Frinton-on-Sea Sea Defences.

48. Cardiff Railway.

49. Aston Manor Improvement.

50. Grindleford, Baslow and Bakewell Railway.

51. London, Brighton, and South Coast Railway.

52. Mersey Docks and Harbour Board.

53. Broadstairs Gas.

54. Hyde Corporation.

55. Leigh Corporation.

56. Great Northern Railway.

57. Metropolitan District Railway (Various Powers).

58. Midland and Belfast and Northern Counties Railways.

An Asterisk (*) at the commencement of a Speech indicates revision by the Member.

SAT FIRST.

The Lord Magheramorne—Sat first in Parliament after the death of his brother.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Scottish American Mortgage Company, Limited, Bill [H.L.]; South Lancashire Tramways Bill [H.L.]; Didcot, Newbury, and Southampton Railway Bill [H.L.]; Commons Amendments considered, and agreed to.

Sheffield Corporation Bill; The Chairman of Committees informed the House that the opposition to the Bill was withdrawn: The orders made on Tuesday and Friday last discharged, and Bill committed.

Castleblayney, Keady, and Armagh Railway (Extension of Time) Bill; Moved, That the Order made on the 16th day of March last, "That no Private Bill brought from the House of Commons shall be read a second time after the 18th day of June next," be dispensed with, and that the Bill be now read 2ª; agreed to; Bill read 2ª accordingly, and committed.

Great Southern and Western Railway Bill; Read 3ª, and passed.

Scottish Central Electric Power Bill [H.L.]; Read 3ª; Amendments made; Bill passed, and sent to the Commons.

Gas Orders Confirmation (No. 1) Bill [H.L.]; Water Orders Confirmation Bill [H.L.]; Returned from the Commons agreed to.

Carmarthenshire Electric Power Bill [H.L.]; Fife Electric Power Bill [H.L.]; St. Philip's Chapel (Regent Street) Bill [H.L.]; Returned from the Commons agreed to, with Amendments.

Baker Street and Waterloo Railway Bill; Midland Great Western Railway of Ireland Bill; Walker and Wallsend Union Gas Bill; Returned from the Commons with the Amendments agreed to.

Dublin, Wicklow, and Wexford Railway Bill; Reported from the Select Committee, with Amendments.

Perth Corporation (Tramways) Order Confirmation Bill [H.L.]. Read 3ª (according to order), and passed, and sent to the Commons.

Aberdeen Corporation Tramways Order Confirmation Bill, [H.L.]; Read 3ª (according to order). An Amendment made; Bill passed and sent to the Commons.

Drainage and Improvement of Lands (Ireland) Provisional Order Bill; Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (No. 3) Bill; Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (No. 7) Bill; Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 13) Bill. House in Committee (according to order): Bills reported without amendment: Standing Committee negatived; and Bills to be read 3ª on Thursday next.

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 5) Bill. Read 3ª (according to order), and passed.

Glasgow Corporation Tramways Order Confirmation Bill [H.L]. Read 3ª (according to order); Amendments made; Bill passed and sent to the Commons.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

TRADE REPORTS (ANNUAL SERIES).

No. 3036. Persia (Persian Gulf); No. 3037. Japan (Yokohama).

MISCELLANEOUS No. 3 (1903).

Report of the Committee appointed to inquire into the constitution of the Consular Service, 2nd July, 1903.

QUEEN'S COLLEGE, CORK.

Annual Report of the President, for the Session 1902–1903.

LAND LAW (IRELAND) ACT, 1887 (EVICTION NOTICES).

Return of the number of eviction notices filed during the quarter ended 30th June, 1903.

COLONIES (ANNUAL).

No. 390. British Honduras (Report for 1902).

RAILWAY ACCIDENTS.

Returns of accidents and casualties as reported to the Board of Trade by the several railway companies in the United Kingdom during the three months ended 31st March, 1903, in pursuance of the Regulation of Railways Act (1871); together with reports of the inspecting officers, assistant inspecting officers, and sub-inspectors of the Railway Department to the Board of Trade upon certain accidents which were inquired into.

Presented (by Command), and ordered to lie on the Table.

WINTER ASSIZES ACT, 1876.

Seven Orders in Council of 9th July, 1903, relating to the ensuing Winter Assizes.

SEA FISHERIES ACT, 1868 (ORDERS FOR FISHERY GRANTS, 1902–1903).

Report of the Board of Trade under Part III. of the Sea Fisheries Act, 1868.

Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table.

NEW BILL.

LIGHT RAILWAYS BILL [H.L.].

A Bill to continue and Amend the Light Railways Act, 1896, was presented by the Lord Wolverton; read 1ª; to be printed; and to be read 2ª on Friday next. (No. 167).

MILITARY LANDS BILL.

[SECOND READING.]

Order of the Day for the Second Reading read.

*LORD LUDLOW: My Lords, this is a short Bill, and its object is to amend the Military Lands Acts, 1892 to 1900, with respect to the acquisition of lands for military purposes As your Lordships are no doubt aware, those Acts gave County and Borough Councils power to acquire land for military purposes. The power given was a compulsory power, and it has proved very useful. County Councils have found that it would be a great convenience to also have the right of leasing land where they have not felt inclined to buy it, and in this short Bill they ask that they shall be allowed the power to lease land for a period of not less than twenty-one years for rifle ranges and other military purposes. As regards the principle of the Bill, that was discussed on a former occasion when power to purchase was given to County and Borough Councils under the Military Lands Act. Therefore, I think I may assume that the principle has been already passed by your Lordships' House. I beg to move the Second Reading of the Bill.

Moved, "That the Bill be now read 2ª."—(*Lord Ludlow.*)

LORD LAMINGTON: My Lords, I have been asked to move the rejection of this Bill by my noble friend Lord Newton, who is absent to-day; but on looking into the Bill I find that it is a mere extension of a principle that has already been accepted by your Lordships' House, and therefore I think it would be futile to ask for its rejection. But when Lord Ludlow says that it has been found useful that County Councils should have the power of compulsorily obtaining land for the making of ranges, I should like to ask the noble Earl who represents the War Office in this House whether that has really been found a useful power. In the other House I understand great dislike was entertained towards this Bill because it relieves the War Office of a very considerable portion of its responsibility in the matter of finding adequate ranges throughout the country. It must be remembered that at the time the original Act was passed there had not been the same attention paid to the necessity of rifle practice, but since the war the importance of it has been realised by the War Office, and a large sum of money is being allocated for ranges. I think that unless it has been established that this is a useful principle, it is one more calculated to relieve the War Office of its proper responsibility and to throw that responsibility on to the ratepayers. Where you get a range for one branch of the service only, it is very difficult for other branches to obtain leave to practise on it. I feel that all ranges ought to be under one authority, and the responsibility of providing and maintaining them should not be left to a double system. I therefore ask the noble Earl whether he can say anything respecting the value of the principle that was adopted in the 1892 Act.

THE CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES (The Earl of MORLEY): I do not wish to raise any objection whatever to the Bill, because it leaves it entirely optional to County Councils whether they will accede to the request of the Volunteer corps or not. But there is one point to which I should like to call the attention of the noble Lord who moved the Second Reading. It is rather a point for Committee, but as I have no opportunity of speaking in Committee, perhaps he will allow me to call attention to it now. The first clause allows a County Council to hire land by agreement. It also gives them power to contribute towards the expenses of another Council in purchasing or hiring. The Bill provides that—

> "The expenses of so hiring or contributing may be defrayed in the same manner as expenses of purchasing, and the payment of those expenses shall accordingly be a purpose for which the Council may borrow money."

Surely the Council ought not to be allowed to borrow money for the purpose of hiring. I think there must be some mistake in that, and I would ask the noble Lord to kindly look into it before the Committee stage.

THE MARQUESS OF GRANBY: I should like to ask whether this is a compulsory Bill or an optional Bill.

*LORD LUDLOW: The power to purchase, given in the previous Act, is a compulsory power. All we ask in this Bill is that the authorities should have power to lease land by agreement.

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (The Earl of HARDWICKE): Perhaps I may be allowed to express the view of the War Office with regard to this Bill. In 1900, the noble Marquess the Foreign Minister, when Under Secretary of State for War, introduced a Military Lands Bill, and in that Bill there was a clause which gave County Councils compulsory powers to hire land. Some exception was, however, taken to this clause in another place, and it was dropped. The Bill when it passed merely gave, in conjunction with the Act of 1892, powers to County Councils to acquire land compulsorily for military purposes, and for providing Volunteer corps with rifle ranges. Lord Newton, who asked the noble Lord behind me to move the rejection of this Bill—a course which Lord Lamington had some hesitation in doing—imagines, no doubt, that the Bill repeats what was in the Act of 1900, and confers upon local authorities compulsory powers in the matter of hiring land. But the Bill does nothing of the kind. It merely allows a County Council to make an arrangement with a landlord to hire land for the purpose of a rifle range for the use of Volunteers in the county, and, inasmuch as the local authority has the power at the present moment to purchase land, I can hardly believe that your Lordships will take exception to this very modest proposal, which cannot but be of great assistance to Volunteer corps, who are from time to time placed in great difficulty with regard to range accommodation, which is absolutely necessary to their efficiency. My noble friend Lord Lamington suggested that a great deal of opposition had been taken to this Bill in another place. I can only say that I have in my hand the Report of the debate that took place on the Third Reading, the preceding stages having passed without debate, and I find that the two speakers who took exception to the Bill did not press their objections. I think I may say that the Bill passed the House of Commons practically without dissent. In these circumstances I hope your Lordships will allow the Bill to be read a second time. With regard to the point raised by the noble Earl the Chairman of Committees I will state the view of the military authorities upon it during the Committee stage.

LORD LAMINGTON: Can the noble Earl state whether the power given in the previous Act has been taken advantage of?

THE EARL OF HARDWICKE: The power of purchasing ground for the use of Volunteers corps has answered, and I do not think there can be any doubt that the power of hiring will answer also.

THE EARL OF WEMYSS: So far as I gather, the County Councils and municipal authorities are to make arrangements for hiring ranges. But who is to pay for them? I presume the ratepayers, and I do not think the ratepayers are the persons who ought to pay. I think this should be a national charge, and should not be placed on the local authorities. I object to it very strongly. There is a mania existing for long ranges. I admit that you must have long range shooting, but for teaching it is not necessary to have the actual long range. I speak from experience. In the village near my home there is a company of Volunteers, and, on my suggestion, the sergeant in charge took two men on joining, neither of whom had ever had a gun in his hands before, and trained them in the drill hall, which is about the size of your Lordships' Chamber and is fitted with a Morris tube. Having trained them to the full on the Morris tube range they were taken straight to the butts, and they shot better than those who had been trained altogether at the butts. Therefore, I strongly object to County Councils having to find these long ranges because they are not necessary.

Amendment moved—

"To leave out the word 'now' and add at the end of the Motion, the words 'this day three months.'"—(*The Earl of Wemyss.*)

LORD WENLOCK: I approve so strongly of the terms in which my noble friend has addressed the House on this question, that I hope he will press his Amendment to a division. The provision of rifle ranges for the Auxiliary Forces is absolutely necessary, and as the Government themselves admit the necessity, from a national point of view, I hope they will recognise that it is a duty incumbent on the nation to pay the cost, and not throw it upon the ratepayers. My own experience shows that the ratepayers are already becoming very incensed at the increased rates which are being imposed upon them.

THE EARL OF HARDWICKE: It appears to be in the minds of the two noble Lords who have just spoken that the War Office have done nothing in the way of providing rifle ranges for Volunteer corps.

LORD WENLOCK: They have done nothing in my part of the country.

THE EARL OF HARDWICKE: Then I am very sorry. But I am about to lay a Paper on the Table showing how the War Office have spent a very large amount which was given by the Treasury for the provision of rifle ranges. That Paper will show that, so far as it has been possible, we have recognised that assistance should be given from military funds for the purpose in question. I think it would be most regrettable if your Lordships refused to give a Second Reading to this Bill, which apparently has the full approval of all concerned in another place, and has received very careful consideration both from the War Office and the Treasury before giving approval to the principle contained in it.

THE EARL OF ROSEBERY: Can the Government find no means of charging the cost of these ranges on the revenues of India?

THE EARL OF HARDWICKE: I do not think any one but the noble Earl would have suggested it.

LORD HARRIS: I think it would be a great pity if this Bill were rejected. There is no compulsion on County Councils to assist local corps by hiring land. It is impossible for the Government to find money for all corps that want ranges in all parts of the country at once. I suppose they are doing their best to find the money to increase the number of ranges as rapidly as possible, but why should not they enlist local sympathy and enthusiasm to assist local corps? Assistance is rendered, not only in regard to rifle ranges, but also in regard to town halls, and I think that as long as this is a permissive power, and not a compulsory power, no serious objection can be taken to it on behalf of the ratepayers. I think it would be a great pity to throw the Bill out.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (the Marquess of LANSDOWNE): My Lords, I cannot help thinking that there is some slight misapprehension in the minds of some noble Lords who have spoken as to the scope of this measure. As I understand the case, it stands thus: Under the existing law—the Military Lands Act, 1892—the Council of a County or Borough may, at the request of one or more Volunteer corps, purchase land for rifle ranges under the Act. That procedure has not been found applicable and convenient in all cases, and this Bill provides that in certain cases, by agreement, County Councils may lease land for the purpose of providing rifle ranges. The arrangement is a purely optional one for the general convenience, and I cannot help thinking that it would be a great pity if your Lordships did not accept the Bill.

*EARL SPENCER: My Lords, I should be exceedingly sorry if this Bill were lost. I cannot agree with my noble friend on the Cross Benches, with whom I have had so much to do in the matter of rifle shooting in old days, that Morris Tube practice is quite sufficient for Volunteers. Though I advocate Morris Tube practice, I feel that it is absolutely necessary that there should also be practice at longer ranges. That is one reason why I desire that this Bill should pass. I confess that I have some sympathy with those who say that the Government, and not the ratepayers, should be put to the charge of finding these very necessary ranges, and, even if this Bill passes, I think those who are in favour of that might, if possible, obtain some further assistance from the Government. The noble Marquess the Foreign Minister has pointed out that this Bill is merely the outcome of the Act already passed, which enabled the purchase of land, and, therefore, the throwing of a much heavier charge upon the ratepayers than would be involved in the hire of land under this Bill. I should be sorry if any impediment were placed in the way of carrying this measure, which I feel sure will be of great advantage to the country. I admit that the War Office has given assistance in this matter, but we may hope for greater assistance in the future, and especially that those counties which have received no assistance at all will be considered.

THE EARL OF HARDWICKE: I ought to have explained that of course Volunteer corps pay a rental to the local authorities for the use of these ranges, and, therefore, though the obligation is on the local authority to pay the rent for the hire to the landlord, they get the money back from the Volunteer corps who use the ranges.

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

On Question, Bill read 2^a, and committed to a Committee of the Whole House on Thursday next.

MOTOR-CARS BILL [H.L.].

House again in Committee (according to Order).

Clause 3.

THE SECRETARY FOR SCOTLAND (Lord BALFOUR of BURLEIGH): My Lords, the clause under discussion when we adjourned the Committee stage last Friday was Clause 3, and the first Amendment on the Paper to-day is in my name. It has been put down to give effect to an undertaking which I mentioned on Friday last. The Amendment provides that licences are only to be granted to persons resident in the county or county borough whose Council is to give the licence. The main object of this change, as I indicated the other day, is to make more sure that the endorsement or suspension of a licence will be properly enforced. It has been suggested that if anyone in Devonshire, for instance, had his licence endorsed, he might go to Northumberland and get another, or might take out two at the same time and produce one on the first occasion for endorsement and the other on the second. This Amendment, and the others I have given notice of, will make it very much more difficult, and probably impossible, to commit a fraud of that sort. I do not propose to make any provision for taking out new licences on a change of residence during the year, as at the end of the year the licence will not be renewable except in the county into which the licencee has removed.

Amendment moved—

"In page 2, line 18, after the word 'it' to insert the words 'who resides in that county or county borough.'"—(*Lord Balfour of Burleigh.*)

THE EARL OF ROSSLYN asked whether the noble Lord had considered the case of foreigners coming into this country. Where were they to obtain a licence?

LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH: I think that point will require to be met by some provision. I am not able to state the exact form it will take, but it is obvious that if a foreigner arrived at Dover it would be a hardship to prevent his driving to London. I will provide for that at a subsequent stage.

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

THE EARL OF ROSSLYN moved to insert words empowering a licensing authority to withhold or subsequently to cancel a licence if, in their opinion, the applicant should be deemed to have no practical knowledge of the method of driving a car. It was, he said, with some hesitation that he moved the Amendment standing in his name, because it was very similar to one moved by Lord Tweedmouth and rejected on the previous Friday; but he asked their Lordships to look most carefully at the position in which the clause now stood. It was stated, in the earlier part of the clause, that a person should not drive a motor-car unless he was licensed for the purpose, and, later, it was provided that the Council of a County or Borough should grant a licence to any person applying for it on payment of a shilling. It was pressed without success on the previous Friday that the Government should accept an Amendment substituting the words "may grant" for "shall grant." In other words, that the Council of a County or County Borough should not be compelled to give a licence to anybody who applied for it. The Government, however, had refused this Amendment, and were going to compel County Councils to grant licences to anyone who paid the necessary shilling, whatever he might know about the driving of a motor-car. The Amendment which he had placed on the Paper gave County or Borough Councils the right to withhold or subsequently cancel such licence, and he had added the words—

"If in their opinion the applicant for or owner of such a licence shall be deemed to have no practical knowledge of the method of driving a car."

He thought County Councils should have the right to say whether a man was fit to drive a car or not. It was true that a slight Amendment was agreed to by the noble Lord in charge of the Bill, that licences should not be granted to anyone under the age of sixteen. But he still thought that County Councils should be given an opportunity of refusing a licence for any valid reason. It had been said by the Secretary for Scotland that people who drove horses had not to prove their competency, and why should drivers of motor-cars? That was an altogether different matter. He might as well say to the noble Lord in charge of the Bill that if it was necessary to obtain a master's certificate to take charge of a yacht, why was it not necessary to obtain a certificate to drive a motor-car? When the First Reading of the Bill was taken Lord Rosebery rightly said that it was necessary to keep under the severest supervision the capacity of those who undertook to drive motor-cars, and the noble Earl added that he would have been glad to hear that a demand would be made for some proof of a driver's fitness to undertake the management of those machines. He (Lord Rosslyn) trusted that His Majesty's Government would give way on this point, and accept his Amendment.

Amendment moved—

"In page 2, line 19, after the word 'section' to insert the words 'But any County or Borough Council may withhold or subsequently cancel such licence if in their opinion the applicant for or owner of such licence shall be deemed to have no practical knowledge of the method of driving a car.'"—(*The Earl of Rosslyn.*)

LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH: I sincerely hope that my noble friend will not press his Amendment. We argued this matter very fully on Friday, and the House by a very substantial majority confirmed the clause in this respect as it stood. I could not for a moment think of simply accepting "may" instead of "shall" without any qualifying words, because that would give the power, with the Amendment which I have just inserted providing that a man is to be resident in a county to get a licence, to a County Council which is hostile to motor-cars to refuse to give licences at all, and then nobody in that county would be able to drive a motor-car. The particular Amendment on the Paper raises the whole question of granting certificates of competency. That was a point which we argued at length the other day, and, as I have said, the Committee supported the view which I put before it by a considerable majority, and I hope that decision will not be reversed on this occasion. I waited for a moment after the noble Earl sat down to see if anyone else rose, but no one got up. Unless the noble Earl receives some support, I think I should be consulting the convenience of the House if I did not repeat the arguments which I put forward last Friday.

The Earl of ROSEBERY said he was quite out of Court in this matter, because he had to leave the House before the exhaustive discussion to which the noble Lord had referred took place. But did he understand that the Government under this Bill did not contemplate any test of competency for drivers?

Lord BALFOUR of BURLEIGH: We do not. It is impossible adequately to test the competency of a driver in any time which can be given to it. We think there is no proper machinery in this country for doing it, and that the other provisions of the Bill providing for suspension and endorsement will be sufficient. No one has suggested the machinery by which this can be done, and I feel bound to say that this is a much less convenient Amendment than the one that was negatived by the House the other night.

The Earl of ROSEBERY asked whether the noble Lord was aware that no one was allowed to drive a motor-car in France without a certificate of efficiency. If that was possible in France, why was it not possible in England? Might he suggest that this would be a fit subject for further Cabinet enquiry?

Lord BALFOUR of BURLEIGH: I do not think it is necessary to make enquiry, because we are fully informed of the condition of affairs in France. The information we receive is that the examination, as conducted there, is of the most superficial kind, and affords no test of fitness in an emergency. As I have already informed the House more than once, there is no ground for assuming that accidents which have happened in the past have been due to the incompetency of the drivers. They are due more to drivers taking risks or going at speeds which ought not to be permissible upon a public highway.

The Earl of ROSEBERY said that the argument of the noble Lord appeared to be that because the examination in France was superficial therefore there should be none at all in England. His information as to the examination in France did not tally with that of the noble Lord. He must protest against the idea that these machines were to run loose on the highways without any guarantee of the efficiency of those who guided them. If that was the opinion of His Majesty's Government he would be compelled, if the noble Lord pressed this matter to a division, to vote with him.

Lord LAMINGTON pointed out that owners who employed persons to drive their cars must have some method of assuring themselves of their competence. Surely, therefore, it would be possible to institute some system of examination.

Lord TWEEDMOUTH said the Amendment now before the House went rather farther than his Amendment did. The noble Lord in charge of the Bill had said that one of the objections to this Amendment was that it provided no method of carrying out the examination. The noble Lord added that no such method had ever been suggested, but it would be within the recollection of the House that in the Amendment which he (Lord Tweedmouth) moved on the previous Friday, and which was rejected, he did suggest that the examination should be carried out by the police, and that the chief of police in a county or borough should give a certificate, and that the applicant for a licence should produce that certificate.

The Earl of WEMYSS asked who was to teach the police.

Lord TWEEDMOUTH said the police would have to make proper regulations. It was an extraordinary thing, because at this moment there was no machinery to do a particular thing, that therefore for ever afterwards we should be without that machinery. This was a new form of traction and must give rise to new conditions, and the obligation should be laid on the local authorities to take the proper precautions, and provide the necessary facilities for taking those precautions, in order to make the roads safe for ordinary traffic. Though the question had been decided by their Lordships, he did not think it was decided after very full discussion. His own feeling was that the House did not look at this question from all sides. His noble friend Lord Craven, who was himself the holder of a licence in France, would be able, if necessary, to give the House an account of how he obtained that licence and the method adopted in France, which was one that did afford at any rate some proof of competence. It was an extraordinary proposition to put forward that it was better to have no proof of competency than to have a proof of competency which was not absolutely without stain. He agreed with the noble Lord in charge of the Bill that they could not test the competence of a man to extricate his car from a difficult position, but that would always be a question of the nerve of the driver.

Lord THRING asked whether it was suggested that County Councils should be compelled to give licences to notorious drunkards or bad characters. No such obligation had ever been imposed on County Councils before. Surely there ought to be some words inserted giving a County Council, when it was proved to them that the applicant, though not incompetent, was quite unfitted by his character to receive a licence, the power to refuse to grant him a licence.

Lord BURGHCLERE asked whether under the Bill as it stood "recklessly" meant the same thing as "incompetency," and whether if it was proved that a driver through incompetency endangered the lives of the public this would be an offence under the Bill. He thought that it ought to be made an offence, and suggested the insertion of the words after recklessly, "or without due care."

*Earl SPENCER said that he had seen and heard things which had appeared to him to throw some light on this question of competency. That morning a motor-car stood opposite his house. The driver lost control of the machine and the car was backed not only over the pavement but up three steps against his front door. Another instance which seemed to favour this plea of competency occurred one evening last year when he returned home from dinner and found a motor-car opposite his door. The horse in his carriage became restive, but he was able to get out without difficulty. To his surprise he found that the driver of the car was a great friend—a very distinguished member at this moment of the present Government, but not the Prime Minister. What had happened was this —his friend had got the car backed against the kerb near the door and had no power of moving it. His *chauffeur* was not with him, directly the *chauffeur* came the car was at once moved off. Perhaps these difficulties of controlling and driving the car would not have arisen if there had been a previous guarantee of competency.

Lord BALFOUR of BURLEIGH: I am sure the noble Earl will allow me to express sympathy with him in the damage to his front door. But the instances he gave do not necessarily prove the incompetency of the driver. The trouble may have been due to the inefficiency of the car. The noble Lord opposite (Lord Burghclere) asked whether "recklessly" would cover incompetency. I would say certainly not. An incompetent man may be reckless, or the most competent man may be reckless. Lord Tweedmouth was very severe upon us for not accepting this Amendment. Are we really, he said, to trust ourselves to people who have given no proof of their competency? The other day the noble

Lord regaled the House with a story of how on one occasion he had travelled six and a half miles in seven minutes. Did the noble Lord demand any proof of the competency of the driver before he entrusted himself in that car?

LORD TWEEDMOUTH: I was aware that the driver was probably the most competent *chauffeur* then in England.

LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH: It would be extremely inconvenient if the House should reverse its former decision. I would point out that there are many different kinds of cars, and competency to drive one kind of car by no means proves that the driver is competent to drive them all.

THE EARL OF CRAVEN: It is mentioned on the French certificate what car the holder can drive.

LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH: Then I suppose the certificate is only to be for a particular car.

THE EARL OF CRAVEN: Yes.

LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH: That goes with much more minuteness into the matter than has ever been suggested. I can only say that I think this certificate, if given, would be an entirely delusive guarantee of the real competence of the driver; nor do I believe that any examination which can be conducted by the police would give any real security to the public. If I did I should not resist this Amendment. If the House chooses to reverse its former decision it has the power to do so, but I shall certainly be obliged to divide the House. I trust that the Amendment will not be accepted.

THE EARL OF ROSEBERY thought that the lives of the inhabitants of this country were of far more importance than the consistency of their Lordships' House in dealing with the Amendment. He did think it would be with consternation that the country would learn to-morrow that under the settled policy of His Majesty's Government there might be next year 20,000 of these powerful machines in use on the high roads without any other guarantee of efficiency than the competency of the driver to pay a shilling.

*EARL RUSSELL did not imagine that anybody who had been in the habit of driving a motor-car for any considerable time would experience the slightest difficulty in passing any examination which might be instituted, but he wished to extend his support to the noble Lord in charge of the Bill in his contention that any examination of this sort would be, from the point of view of public safety, entirely illusory. He thought that noble Lords who had spoken in an opposite sense were under the impression that because a man was competent to drive he would drive carefully and with due regard to the convenience of other vehicles and the public, but the general experience in this country was that Frenchmen, who were, perhaps, the most qualified motorists, drove their cars with far less regard for life and limb than those who were not so experienced. The Amendment used the words—

> "Shall be deemed to have practical knowledge of the method of driving a car."

Did that mean practical knowledge of how to make the car go and stop, or did it mean practical knowledge of how to repair the car when it went wrong? The particular instance which was given by the noble Lord who moved the Amendment was a remarkably unfortunate one. The noble Lord said that the master of a ship had to obtain a certificate of competency, but their Lordships knew that the owner of his own yacht might sign as master and put to sea without any certificate of competency. If that was allowed in the case of a private yacht, there did not seem any reason for imposing the proposed test in the case of motorists. As a matter of fact, people who owned motor-cars would always insist upon the competency of the driver before they risked their valuable property. A mere certificate of proficiency in driving a car would be no safeguard to the public, and he hoped the noble Lord in charge of the Bill would not recede from the position he had taken up.

LORD BURGHCLERE, referring to Lord Balfour's reply to his question, said it was quite clear that a driver might be both reckless and incompetent, but he might also be incompetent without being reckless. The question he wished to put to the noble Lord in charge of the Bill was whether under the Bill as it stood, supposing it were proved that a driver, through incompetence, had endangered the lives of the public, that would be an offence under the Act.

Lord BALFOUR of BURLEIGH: It would be a question of fact at the time for the Court, as to the degree of the incompetent recklessness.

Lord BURGHCLERE said his point had reference to incompetence without recklessness.

Lord RIBBLESDALE thought an examination as proposed would be found illusory. How was a man to learn to drive? He clearly could not obtain a certificate of efficiency till he had learnt to drive.

*The PRESIDENT of the BOARD of AGRICULTURE (the Earl of Onslow) said that any man who was proved to be incompetent would be driving to the common danger and would commit an offence under the Bill. In his judgment a certificate of competency would be entirely illusory. On one occasion he took a powerful car over to France and took care to employ a certificated French *chauffeur*. He thought that with these precautions he was bound to be fairly safe. But on the first day the *chauffeur* passed another car on the wrong side, throwing an old lady out, and on the second day, in order to avoid a car which was being driven slowly, the *chauffeur* ran the car into a ditch. The exploit cost him a great deal of money, and after getting rid of the *chauffeur* he sold the car. No certificate of competency even in France was a real guarantee that a car would be driven in an efficient manner.

Lord REDESDALE said the object of this Bill was to afford some degree of safety for His Majesty's lieges in a new danger, but unless care was taken to see that the men who drove these cars knew their business, the greatest danger to the general public might arise. After the Bill had been passed it would be very difficult to get the law amended, and therefore he hoped their Lordships would reverse their former decision on this point, even if they thereby incurred the charge of inconsistency.

The Earl of KIMBERLEY asked what was to happen if a man who had been granted a certificate of efficiency had his licence taken away because he drove recklessly. Would he then be photographed and his photograph circulated all round the country? Otherwise, how could they prevent him going to another part of the country and driving?

Lord BALFOUR of BURLEIGH: The last Amendment which your Lordships inserted will prevent that happening. It is an offence under the Act to have more than one licence, and under the Amendment to which your Lordships have just agreed a person can only get a licence in the County or County Borough in which he resides, and in which the car is registered.

The Earl of KIMBERLEY said the driver might lose his licence and yet at the same time go to another part of the country and continue driving until he was found out. How was it proposed to detect men who did that?

On Question, their Lordships divided:—Contents, 37; Not Contents, 52.

CONTENTS.

Grafton, D.
Rutland, D.

Ripon, M.

Craven, E.
Jersey, E.
Kimberley, E.
Lytton. E.
Rosslyn, E. [*Teller.*]
Spencer, E.

Allerton, L.
Belhaven and Stenton, L.
Brougham and Vaux, L.
Burghclere, L.
Congleton, L.
Dunboyne, L.
Hare, L. (*E. Listowel.*)
James, L.
Kelvin, L.
Kinnaird, L.
Lamington, L.

Lindley, L.
Lyveden, L.
Macnaghten, L.
Manners of Haddon, L. [*M. Granby.*)
Mostyn, L.
Reay, L.
Redesdale, L.
Rosebery, L. (*E. Rosebery*)
St. Levan, L.
Sandhurst, L.

Saye and Sele, L.
Shand, L.
Shute, L. (*V. Barrington.*)
Thring, L.
Tredegar, L.
Tweedmouth, L. [*Teller.*]
Wandsworth, L.

NOT-CONTENTS.

Halsbury, E. (*L. Chancellor.*)
Devonshire, D. (*L. President.*)

Bath, M.
Lansdowne, M.

Abingdon, E.
Ancaster, E.
Chesterfield, E.
Denbigh, E.
Hardwicke, E.
Ilchester, E.
Lauderdale, E.
Leven and Melville, E.
Morley, E.
Northbrook, E.
Onslow, E.
Russell, E.
Selborne, E.
Vane, E. (*M. Londonderry.*)
Waldegrave, E. [*Teller.*]
Yarborough, E.

Cross, V.
Gordon, V. (*E. Aberdeen.*)
Portman, V.

Abinger, L.
Balfour, L.
Belper, L.
Braye, L.
Colchester, L.
Davey, L.
De Mauley, L.
Ellenborough, L.
Glenesk, L.
Harris, L.
Heneage, L.
Kenyon, L.
Kilmarnock, L. (*E. Erroll.*)
Kintore, L. (*E. Kintore*).
Lawrence, L. [*Teller.*]
Lovat, L.
Ludlow, L.
Manners, L.
Montagu of Beaulieu, L.
Muncaster, L.
Norton, L.
Penrhyn, L.
Ribblesdale, L.
Robertson, L.
Wemyss, L. (*E. Wemyss.*)
Wenlock, L.
Windsor, L.
Wolverton, L.
Wrottesley, L.

LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH: The next Amendment standing in my name is really to carry out the policy I have already indicated to the House.

Amendment moved—

"In page 2, line 19, after the word 'section,' to insert as fresh paragraphs:—'A licence shall remain in force for a period of twelve months from the date on which it is granted, but shall be renewable, and the same provisions shall apply with respect to the renewal of the licence as apply with respect to the grant of the licence.' 'A person shall not be entitled to hold more than one licence.'"—(*Lord Balfour of Burleigh*).

*EARL RUSSELL asked whether the endorsement of a licence would be carried on from one year to another.

THE MARQUESS OF BATH said that, as his noble friend's Amendment covered in principle the one he had placed on the Paper, he would not move his; but he would like to ask the noble Lord whether it would be possible for a County Council to make regulations for the issuing of these licences, say from the county offices, so that regular resolutions would not have to be passed?

LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH: The answer to that question is in the affirmative. It is hoped that this will be very much a matter of machinery which the County Council can delegate to its responsible officers. The answer to the question put to me by the noble Earl opposite, Earl Russell, is also in the affirmative. The endorsement will be carried on from one year to another.

On question, Amendment agreed to.

THE EARL OF ROSSLYN moved to insert a new sub-section authorising the licensing authority to refuse a licence to anyone who might be physically or mentally incapacitated. He asked the Government to accept this as a matter of common sense, so that the licensing authority could refuse to grant a licence to a blind man, a deaf man, and a lunatic.

Amendment moved—

"After Sub-section (2) to insert the following new sub-section:—'The Council of a County or Borough may, in their discretion, refuse a licence to anyone who may be physically or mentally incapacitated.'"—(*The Earl of Rosslyn.*)

LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH: The object of this Amendment commands a certain amount of sympathy, but how really is it to be enforced? What degree of deafness is to disqualify, and are you going to set up a County Council as a judge of lunacy? I think you will find this extremely difficult to carry out. The idea of the Bill is a better one, but I am quite aware, from the previous discussion, that there may be a certain amount of sympathy for this Amendment. My case against it is that it is absolutely unworkable. I do not think the County Council can decide the question of sanity. If a man is going about the country he must be presumed, I suppose, to be sane enough to drive a motor-car. Surely you cannot ask the County Councils to set up a new standard of sanity.

THE EARL OF ROSEBERY thought the noble Lord was quite right to be consistent in the pursued policy of the Government to authorise incapacity of every kind on the motor-cars of the country and therefore he would not urge the noble Lord on the Cross Benches to divide. But he would point out that there was such a thing as local knowledge of the persons who applied for a licence. It was also possible that when a man had been found driving, whether from deafness or other physical incapacity, to the common danger of His Majesty's subjects, the County Council might wish to refuse him a licence.

LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH: I venture to think that that is not a fair representation of the position of the Government in the matter. If a man is found, as the noble Lord presupposes—which means found by a Court—to have been driving in the way he describes——

THE EARL OF ROSEBERY: Not necessarily found by a Court.

LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH: In that case the licence would be endorsed, and if the licence is endorsed the County Council has power over it. It is not reasonable to set up a standard in the vague terms proposed.

THE EARL OF ROSEBERY put it to the noble Lord whether, supposing when he (Lord Balfour) was going out of his park gate in Scotland a stone deaf neighbour nearly ran him down through not hearing his carriage wheels, would the noble Lord not think himself entitled to represent to the County Council that his neighbour was not fit to control a motor-car?

LORD TWEEDMOUTH said these were questions which even a superficial examination of the competency of persons who applied for licences would find out.

LORD HENEAGE pointed out that as the Bill was drafted it not only gave a man who was a notorious drunkard, and well known in the district as such, power to obtain a licence in the first instance, but the Council were bound to renew that licence unless he had driven recklessly. He was told that a great many of these accidents happened not when men were driving recklessly, but when, having delivered their cargo, they went to the public-house and refreshed themselves, and went home the worse for liquor.

LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH: Surely if a man is discovered and convicted of such conduct as that, the proper thing to do is to bring him before a Court and endorse his licence.

LORD HENEAGE: But could the licence be endorsed if he was not driving recklessly?

LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH: Yes; it could be dealt with under Clause 1 if he is driving to the danger of the public.

On Question, Amendment negatived.

THE MARQUESS OF GRANBY said he did not think it would be necessary to move the Amendment standing in his name, providing that the licence of any person who had been convicted under the Act, and who had appealed against such conviction, should be suspended pending the hearing of such appeal, because he had been informed that the noble Lord in charge of the Bill had met the object he had in view, which was to provide against persons who had been convicted under the Act, and had appealed against the conviction, driving in the meantime.

LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH: The Amendment standing in my name, which comes next, was devised avowedly to meet the point which the noble Marquess brought to my notice by means of his Amendment. Under the Bill an appeal would only lie where a person is sent to prison without the option of a fine, and the noble Marquess urged that a person ought to have an appeal in the case of his licence being suspended for more than six months where he is not sent to prison, and that is provided for by this Amendment. A further question arose as to the operation of the suspension during the time of the hearing of the appeal. We think the suspension should not be got round by a person appealing, because in that case considerable time might elapse before the appeal was heard, and during all that time the driver whose licence had been suspended by the Court of first instance could go on driving. Power is given in this Amendment to the Court to allow the driver to go on driving if they see fit, but it is in the discretion of the Court of first instance. I venture to suggest that this is a satisfactory solution of the difficulty which surrounds this point.

Amendment moved—

"In page 3, line 4, after the word 'licence' to insert, as a new paragraph: 'Any person whose licence is suspended under this section for a period of six months or more, or who is declared disqualified from obtaining a licence under this section for any such period, may appeal against the order for suspension or disqualification to a Court of quarter sessions in the same manner as a person may appeal who is ordered to be imprisoned without the option of a fine; and the Court by which the suspension or disqualification is ordered may, if they think fit, pending the appeal, defer the operation of the order.'"—(*Lord Balfour of Burleigh.*)

LORD BURGHCLERE asked the noble Lord to point out in what portion of the Bill the provision occurred that any person driving to the danger of the public could be dealt with in the way suggested. So far as he could make out, it was necessary that he should be driving at a speed which was dangerous to the public, which was a very different thing.

LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH: It is not, I think, very convenient to take one back to a clause which is not dealt with by this Amendment, but I will do my best to answer the point which the noble Lord has raised. The offence that has to be proved is driving recklessly or at a speed dangerous to the public. Surely those two things together are sufficient. If you have the case of a drunken man driving, surely he is driving recklessly or at a speed dangerous to the public. Lord Rosebery has suggested the insertion of the word "carelessly" which I have already informed the noble Earl I cannot accept, but I am willing to insert "negligently" after "recklessly" at a subsequent stage.

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Clause 3, as amended, agreed to.

THE EARL OF CAMPERDOWN said the Amendment standing in his name did not originate with him but with Lord Herries, who was unavoidably absent on this occasion. He did not think he need make any lengthened speech in support of it. He thought every one of their Lordships would be of opinion that the driver of a motor-car who caused an accident, or who was concerned in an accident, and who then drove away, committed as grave an offence as it was possible for him to commit, and one which deserved very severe punishment.

Amendment moved—

"After Clause 3, to insert the following new clause: 'Should any accident happen to a passer-by or his horse or vehicle, it shall be the duty of the driver of the motor-car to stop his car and give such assistance as he can; and, if he fail to do so, he shall be guilty of an offence under this Act.'"—(*The Earl of Camperdown.*)

LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH: I do not think the precise wording will do under any circumstances, and I am rather inclined to suggest to the House some considerations on the other side altogether. The noble Earl does not suppose that the accidents must necessarily have been caused always by the driver of the motor-car.

THE EARL OF CAMPERDOWN: No; but whether the motor-car was to blame or not.

LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH: That gets rid of the technical objection. But is it really thought that a provision of this kind can be useful? If the accident is caused by reckless driving, the fact of a man driving away without rendering assistance, will, of course, be an aggravation of the offence, and, if proved, it will have the effect of increasing the penalty. This proposal seems to me to be an attempt to enforce gentlemanly conduct by statute. A friend of mine has described it as an attempt to make good Samaritans by Act of Parliament, though in the parable the good Samaritan was not responsible for the injuries to the man he succoured. But do you think that assistance which is given under a fear of a fine of this kind will be really worth having? I venture to say that it will not, and that the clause is really not necessary and inexpedient. The proposal is to make a man who drives away guilty of an offence under this Act, but if an accident is owing to reckless driving the driver will have already committed an offence under the Act, and you cannot really make him guilty of two offences. It is one offence aggravated. As I have said, the clause is really useless, but if the sense of the House is in favour of it I personally will offer no objection. I quite agree that if a man in a motor-car causes an accident and then drives away without stopping to see if any assistance can be given he is guilty of a most serious offence. I think it is adequately punished under the Bill as it stands, but for fear it should be said that we do not regard this conduct as a serious offence I would rather accept the Amendment than divide the House upon it. But unless there is a very strong feeling in favour of it I would prefer not to accept it.

THE EARL OF CAMPERDOWN said the noble Lord had surprised him very much when he stated that the object of this Amendment was to create good Samaritans by Act of Parliament. The object was not to do that, but to punish cowardly persons who first caused an accident and then drove away, leaving the unfortunate victims to get on as best they could. Whether the driver of the motor-car was in fault or not, surely, when an accident had occurred in which he had taken part, the least thing he could do would be to stop and assist as well as he could. The noble Lord in charge of the Bill said that assistance compulsorily given was of no use. What he wanted was the assistance. He did not care whether it was given owing to compulsion or in any other way. Only two or three days ago a man drove away in a car which did not belong to him, and knocked over a sergeant in the Irish Guards, breaking that unfortunate man's leg. But the motorist drove off, leaving him lying in the road. It so happened that this scoundrel was taken up on the charge of stealing the car, and it was then discovered, through investigations that took place, that he was the person who had knocked over the sergeant. But for this fact, however, it would never have been discovered. The Amendment might create a second offence under the Act, and even if it did he would be very glad.

THE EARL OF ROSEBERY said he was very glad to see that the Government, though they were not particularly anxious to provide against accidents, took a more favourable view of what he might call *post mortem* Amendments. But he did not feel that he could support his noble friend in this Amendment, because he thought it went too far. If the Amendment provided that the person causing the accident should stop his car and give his name, that would be enough. If, on the other hand, he was called upon to give assistance, that might be used as a means of some oppression by persons who have sustained very slight injuries.

THE EARL OF CAMPERDOWN was quite ready to accept such an Amendment as the noble Earl had suggested.

LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH: I think in these circumstances it would be better not to put in these particular words, but to negative this Amendment now under an undertaking from me that I will put down words to endeavour to give effect to the sense of the House at a subsequent stage.

THE EARL OF CAMPERDOWN said he was perfectly prepared to accept that undertaking.

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

Clause 4.

Consequential Amendments agreed to

LORD KELVIN moved an additional paragraph enabling the Board to make regulations to secure against the use on public roads of motor-cars, dangerous whether on account of imperfect mechanical construction or excessive engine power, designed for dangerously high speeds. He said his Amendment went towards an object that was admitted by the House last Friday to be one of importance with reference to the safety of the public. It seemed to him that by the mode proposed in his Amendment the object could be carried out in a businesslike way and without making a general rule as to either speed or the power of which the car was capable. It was pointed out clearly by Lord Balfour that the possibility of running at a high speed on the flat was necessary to allow a car to be competent to do a great part of its regular and proper work, and therefore the condition, if it was to be made, to secure against dangerous cars, must not specify precisely the qualities which the car might have. But the Local Government Board had duties put upon it facilitating the identification of motor-cars, arranging also about licences to be granted by Councils of Counties and County Boroughs, and so on. It seemed to him that to add a third paragraph enabling the Local Government Board to make regulations to secure against the use on public roads of motor-cars, dangerous whether on account of imperfect mechanical construction or excessive engine power, designed for dangerously high speeds, would be to place upon them a duty which they might rightly discharge, and he trusted that it might be found possible for them to undertake it.

Amendment moved—

"In page 3, line 32, after the word 'police,' to insert as a new paragraph '(*c.*) To secure against the use on public roads of motor-cars, dangerous whether on account of imperfect mechanical construction or excessive engine power, designed for dangerously high speeds.'"—(*Lord Kelvin.*)

LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH: Upon this matter I have, of course, to speak upon the information supplied to me by others. I am neither engineer nor mechanician enough to test the information, but I am told that it is absolutely impossible to make this proposal effective by any antecedent regulations whatever, or to do more than take care that the motor should be under proper control. I am told that it is absolutely impossible to attempt any interference by regulation with the mechanical construction of a car. I believe that no effective machinery can be provided for the purpose, because any sort of machinery which controls engine-power in the car is of such a kind that it can be constantly altered by any competent person who is in charge of the car, and to attempt to carry out this proposal by legislation would involve constant examination, almost from day to day, of every car which is to run along the public roads. I am told that it is impossible, after the engine has been put into the car, to tell what its real horse power for driving purposes is. In these circumstances, all that would happen would be that a car would be called a six, a twelve, a twenty, or a thirty-horse power car, according to the will of the manufacturer, and the County Council would not really be able to apply any effective test. It is a perfectly useless operation to put upon the Local Government Board the duty of framing regulations which they tell Parliament they cannot frame in such a way as to be effective.

LORD KELVIN said that if it seemed inadvisable, he certainly would not press his Amendment. But he contended that the horse power of the engine after it had been put into the car could be tested without the slightest difficulty. He trusted that he might be pardoned for not accepting the information which had been given to the noble Lord by the professional advisers of the Local Government Board.

THE EARL OF ROSEBERY did not think the final objection given by the noble Lord in charge of the Bill—that the House ought not to put on the Local Government Board duties which they had declared themselves incapable of undertaking—was a valid one, because they had declared themselves incapable of doing so much with regard to preventing accidents that they would be left no power at all. He admitted that they were all children in these matters, and were groping rather in the dark. Taking expert against expert, he preferred the authority of Lord Kelvin to that of any expert that could be named. If the noble Lord opposite would arrange a meeting between Lord Kelvin and the expert, and the latter could convince Lord Kelvin that his proposal was incapable of being carried out, the House would be in a position to deal with the question on Report. It was so serious a matter that it could not be dealt with by reading out the opinion of an anonymous expert at the Table.

LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH: I have not the slightest objection to endeavouring to arrange the meeting which the noble Earl has suggested. If the Amendment is not pressed, I will certainly endeavour to make that meeting possible.

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

THE EARL OF CAMPERDOWN said that under the Bill they were giving large powers to the Local Government Board. They were enabling them to make regulations which would have the force of law. It was becoming more and more the habit of Departments to take upon themselves, or to have placed upon them, functions which more properly belonged to Parliament itself. Surely these regulations, when made, ought to be laid on the Table of both Houses, and then it would be in the power of any Member of either House, if he saw a regulation which he thought objectionable, to bring it under the notice of the House with a view to its alteration. The words in his Amendment were inserted in the regulation clause of the Act of 1896, and he thought it only right that they should be inserted in this Bill.

Amendment moved—

"In page 3, line 34, after the word 'Board' to insert as a new sub-section 'Every regulation made in pursuance of this section shall be forthwith laid before both Houses of Parliament.'"—(*The Earl of Camperdown*)

LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH: I am glad that the noble Earl has not moved the clause in the shape in which it first appeared, inasmuch as, according to the Amendment as originally drafted, the regulations would not become law until they had been laid on the Table for forty days.

THE EARL OF CAMPERDOWN said he had never put the Amendment down in any form other than that in which it now appeared on the Paper.

LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH: I was under the impression that the Amendment had appeared in the other form. With regard to this Amendment I can assure the noble Lord that this is already provided for. Section 6 of the Locomotives Act, under which the regulations are made, provides in so many words that the regulations shall be laid on the Table of Parliament, and it is only under that section that the regulations can be made.

THE EARL OF CAMPERDOWN said he could not see any objection to inserting the Amendment in the clause. If it had a fault, it would merely be one of repetition; but, at all events, it would enable members of both Houses to see clearly what was the intention of the Act.

LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH: I have the greatest dislike to inserting words which are superfluous and unnecessary, and which are likely to throw doubt on the other clauses. There is no power to make regulations except under Section 6 of the principal Act, and that section provides that any regulations made under it shall be laid on the Table of both Houses of Parliament. In those circumstances I cannot accept the Amendment.

THE EARL OF CAMPERDOWN said he would not press his Amendment, but at the same time he thought the insertion of the words would have been very useful.

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

Clause 4, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 5.

*THE EARL OF JERSEY moved to insert the word "not" after "is," the effect being to leave the speed limit as at present.

He admitted that after the decision the other night there was rather an awkward fence to get over; but still, there might even on that clause be a little wavering on the part of Members. It was certain that in many parts of the country there was a strong opposition to the idea that motor-cars should be allowed to go at any rate of speed which the driver might choose to adopt, and it certainly seemed hard that the general public should be jeopardised by motor-cars travelling at a high rate of speed. Lord Balfour had argued the other night that it was difficult to enforce a speed limitation clause, but he hardly thought that could really be the case, because in that very clause the noble Lord proposed in certain places to adopt a limit of speed. The Board of Trade imposed a limit of speed in the case of tramways, and surely if those rules could be carried out, there would be no difficulty in enforcing a restricted rate of speed with regard to motor-cars. The noble Lord made a great mistake if he thought that this Bill, without such a restriction, would be well received in the country districts. He moved his Amendment as a strong protest against the principle of unlimited speed. In the few days since the House first went into Committee on this Bill he had had an opportunity of seeing the people in the part of the country in which he lived, and everyone to whom he had spoken was aghast at the idea that their Lordships' House had gone in so thoroughly for unlimited speed. The Government appeared to have taken the side of high speed motor-cars drivers as against the public.

Amendment moved.

"In page 3, line 36, after the word 'is' to insert the word 'not.'"—(*The Earl of Jersey.*)

LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH: I venture to state that it is hardly fair to say that the Government have taken the side of the motor-car drivers as against the public in regard to this Bill. I am quite sure the motor-car drivers, at any rate, do not think the Government have taken their side. Probably the real fact of the matter is, that the Government have taken the extreme view of neither party in this Bill, but have endeavoured to bring in a measure which will fairly regulate matters in the future without unduly hampering those who like the sport of driving in motor-cars, and at the same time do all that is reasonable to preserve the roads for those who do not enjoy that form of amusement. I think the House will not accept this Amendment when it learns that the effect of it would be universally, with certain exceptions provided by the local authorities, to preserve the existing speed limit; for, if one thing more than another has been settled by the previous discussions it is that the existing speed limit has been found wanting. If we were to accept this Amendment, we might just as well leave the Bill off the Statute-book. I cannot accept this Amendment, nor the one in the name of Lord Kelvin which stands next; but when we come to a subsequent Amendment it will probably be convenient to indicate in a more general way what improvement I think can be made in this clause. In the meantime I hope the noble Lord will not press his Amendment.

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

LORD KELVIN said he felt so strongly that there ought to be no interregnum between the passage of the Bill and the issue of Local Government Board regulations, during which there would be absolutely no fixed limit of speed in any part of Great Britain or Ireland, that he thought either his Amendment, or perhaps some modification of it, ought to be adopted. It was surely not asking too much to ask that the public should be protected against that state of things. The Bill was aimed at reckless driving, but it was more easy to say at what rate of speed a car was driving than to give a satisfactory definition of reckless driving.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 3, line 36, to leave out the word 'except' and insert the word 'only.'"—(*Lord Kelvin*).

LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH: The arguments which I ventured to put before the House a moment ago were intended to apply to the two Amendments, which are absolutely identical.

I trust I shall not be thought discourteous if I do not repeat them. I hope the noble Lord will withdraw his Amendment.

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

LORD TWEEDMOUTH moved an Amendment to provide that "in no town, village, or populous place" should the speed of any motor-car exceed twelve miles an hour. He said that the Government, with the assent of the House, had refused to enact any speed limit; they had refused to enact any power limit, and they had refused to require any proof of competence on the part of the drivers of motor-cars. He thought those three refusals formed a strong reason for the adoption of the Amendment he now moved. Clause 5, as it stood, repealed the present enactment with regard to the speed of motor-cars, but it retained the present rate of speed up to fourteen miles an hour in all cases where the local authority applied for leave from the Local Government Board to retain it in respect of any special limits or special places. That was a form of local option with regard to the regulation of speed given to local authorities, subject to the veto of the Local Government Board. If every local authority were allowed to fix its own limit of speed within scheduled areas there would result a most confusing patchwork of speeds over the country. It was much simpler to provide one limit for all populous places. He had selected the limit of twelve miles an hour because it was the maximum speed of horse traffic, and because, therefore, it was easy to tell whether the speed was exceeded. In populous places there would then be no necessity for signs.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 3, lines 36 and 37, to leave out the words 'except as respects,' and insert the words 'provided that in no town, village, or other populous place, nor within.'"—(*Lord Tweedmouth.*)

LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH: I do not wish to burk discussion upon this clause, but I think I shall probably meet the convenience of the House if I make a few remarks at this stage as to the effect of this clause, and what the Government are prepared to do to meet the suggestions made the other night in the Amendments which are now on the Paper. The noble Lord made a most moderate speech, and one with which, in very large measure, I find myself in agreement. The Bill, he truly said, repeals the speed limit, except under the conditions set out in the clause. Speaking generally, there are three dangers to be guarded against in this clause. The primary object of this Bill is to punish the man who drives recklessly or negligently, and nothing should be done to suggest that if he keeps within a certain speed limit, up to, say, ten, twelve, or fourteen miles an hour, he is in any way absolved from the necessity of being careful. I entirely agree with the noble Lord opposite that it is undesirable to have too many varying speed limits all over the country. There may be special cases where a very low speed ought to be fixed, a speed lower than ten or twelve miles an hour, but they will be very few. We think that where there is a special limit imposed it should in almost every case be the same limit, so that when a driver is within the prescribed points he should always keep within the same limit. It would be very inconvenient to have a limit in one county of fourteen miles an hour, in another of twelve, and in another of ten; and the President of the Local Government Board is prepared to agree that, except in the most extraordinary circumstances, the limit of speed for special areas should be uniform, and that that limit should be ten miles an hour. The House will see that we are going a considerable distance to meet those who have Amendments down in regard to this clause. Another danger to be guarded against is the undue caprice of local authorities. They cannot be allowed a roving charter to impose limits wherever they like, but must be under the controlling authority of the Local Government Board, so that one consistent policy may be adopted throughout the whole country. The proposal of the noble Lord opposite is to take "populous places." The words "populous places" are by themselves objectionable, as it is unfair to the drivers as well as to the public to leave to their discretion the decision where a "populous place" begins and ends. I hold that it is absolutely necessary that notices should be posted up wherever a special speed limit is prescribed, and that between the two notices posted up the driver is not to go beyond the special limit of speed. Though I do not like the Amendment of the noble Lord, I am prepared to strike out the word "special" in each of the three places where it occurs in the clause. The clause will then read—

> "Section 4 of the principal Act (which relates to the rate of speed of motor-cars) is hereby repealed except as respects any limits or place to which that section is applied by regulation made by the Local Government Board with a view to the safety of the public on the application of the Council of any County or County Borough in which the limits or place are situated."

I believe from communications which have been made to my right hon. friend and myself that this proposal will go very far to meet the views of those who have suggested Amendments to this clause. But the idea is that the County Council should be able to recommend those places within their areas to which this limit of speed might be usefully applied. It may be applied to the whole or any of the country towns, or to populous places where the traffic is considerable, and to any dangerous places in the country roads, to steep hills or sharp corners. There is no limit to the distance over which the prohibition might apply, but of course the power will have to be fairly and reasonably exercised and not used capriciously. I hold strongly that the ultimate decision as to the speed should rest with the central authority, because if local authorities are left to decide the question much irritation and difficulty will be created. I do not for a moment conceal from myself, nor does my right hon. friend Mr. Long conceal from himself, that this will impose a difficult task on the central body, but we believe that the great majority of the local authorities will do their best to assist the central authority, and will not be unduly extravagant in their demands for special regulations. It must remain incumbent on local authorities to put up the necessary notices; from that I cannot depart. If in the future the Local Government Board thinks that the limits of space over which the speed is to be brought down to ten miles per hour are too large, I should like to preserve the initiative of the central authority to amend them. I do not propose to give the central authority any power itself to initiate the closing of spaces; but to meet cases where it has approved the closing of spaces and then finds that it has gone too far, I shall propose at a subsequent stage to allow the central authority to modify the limit which it had previously agreed to.

Lord TWEEDMOUTH said the noble Lord had given him nothing at all. The omission of the word "special" did not meet him in any way. His great desire was to have a uniform speed limit in towns and populous places.

Lord BALFOUR of BURLEIGH: If it were to be made a condition of accepting the proposals I have made, I would see if I could not do even that before another stage.

Lord TWEEDMOUTH said he would withdraw the greater portion of his opposition provided the noble Lord would introduce words into the section that the speed limit should be a uniform one of ten miles an hour in such places.

Lord HENEAGE, as one who had an Amendment on the Paper to this clause, said he was grateful for the concession announced by the Government—namely, that a speed limit, in the areas in question, of ten miles an hour should be put in the clause. His object in suggesting a limit of ten miles was to prevent cars from being driven at high speeds through country villages and towns, and especially at corners where traffic converged. A uniform limit of speed was desirable, and he was glad it was proposed to insert ten miles in the clause. He agreed that it would be disastrous if different rates of speed obtained all over the country.

The Earl of NORTHBROOK thought the conclusion arrived at by the noble Lord in charge of the Bill was a right one. The standing Joint Committee of Hampshire had discussed this matter, and they felt that there would be very great difficulty in making special recommendations for limits of speed in different parts of the county. Therefore it would be better if the noble Lord followed the example contained in the Locomotives on Highways Act, 1865, and altered the clause so that there should be a limit of speed of ten miles an hour when motor-cars went through any city, town, or village, leaving it to the different local authorities to ask, if they desired it, for a lower limit of speed in any particular place; and this, he thought, the Local Government Board would be disinclined to sanction except for very good reason.

THE EARL OF ROSEBERY asked whether the Local Government Board were prepared to lay on the local authorities the duty of marking out the dangerous places by signals, especially cross roads. He did not think that the posting up of notices to show where the special rate of speed was to begin and end was enough for public security or for the safety of the drivers themselves. Would it not be possible by regulation on local authorities to secure the marking of dangerous places by a signal which would be generally recognised?

THE EARL OF CAMPERDOWN called attention to the practical working of the change outlined by the Secretary for Scotland, and calculated that for the future two-thirds of the roads of the whole country would come under the speed limit. He was very glad indeed that the Government had come round to adopt a fixed limit of speed.

VISCOUNT HAMPDEN wished to know whether the Local Government Board would exercise any veto on the caprices of local authorities.

LORD RIBBLESDALE confessed that he did not quite understand the position in which the House was. He understood that the noble Lord in charge of the Bill had stated that he was prepared to do certain things, but that he did not quite see how they could be done. With regard to fixing a limit of ten miles an hour, he submitted that the view of his noble friend would be met by the insertion after the word "repealed" in line 36, of these words "provided that within any limits or place to which that section is applied by regulations made by the Local Government Board with a view to the safety of the public on the application of the Council of any County or County Borough the speed of any motor-car shall not exceed ten miles an hour." He was rather pre-disposed to put it on local authorities to look after their own people, but the general sense of the House had converted him to believe in a speed limit of some sort.

*EARL RUSSELL regretted that the Government were going back to the fatal principle of so many miles an hour. Motor-cars were habitually driven in London at twelve and fifteen miles an hour with perfect safety, and to the satisfaction of the police. It would not be a reasonable thing to enforce a speed limit of ten miles an hour in open country simply because it happened to be within the boundary of a town. Again, a village might be very populous in the middle of the day, but would it be a populous place at 4 or 5 o'clock in the morning when the inhabitants were in bed? One Amendment on the Paper suggested that cars should be limited to ten miles an hour at turnings. There were turnings which it would be dangerous to go round at six miles an hour, and there were others which it would be safe to go round at fifteen miles an hour. Speaking as one who was not altogether without experience in driving these cars through all sorts of towns and villages, he very much preferred the clause which the Government had drafted and which appeared in the Bill, because by that clause the Local Government Board would reserve to themselves the power, on the advice of the local authority, of placarding a particular section of road and saying that on that section of road the speed must be limited. But to endeavour to include particular classes of places would always give too high a limit in some places and too low a limit in others. He hoped the Government would not include a rigid limit of ten miles an hour, but would endeavour to maintain the clause as it was.

LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH: I am satisfied that the offer which I made is much more in conformity with the general views of the House than the argument of the noble Earl who has just sat down. I would point out that, even if these proposals are accepted, we do not mean to depart from the obligation on the local authority to put up notices warning drivers of motor-cars when they have come within the limits within which they are not to go beyond ten miles an hour. I think that the Amendment which has been handed to me by Lord Ribblesdale, and which he read to the House, goes so near what I propose that I am prepared to accept it now and to put the words in the Bill, on the understanding that the drafting may be improved, if necessary, at a later stage. I cannot agree with Lord Northbrook that County Councils should not have to send up their regulations to the central authority. I am afraid I must maintain that provision, and in answer to Viscount Hampden I wish to say most distinctly that the Local Government Board do intend to exercise their own judgment as to the reasonableness of a proposal made to them. In no other way will it be possible to get this Bill accepted by Parliament. The Local Government Board are responsible to Parliament in a way in which County Councils are not responsible, and I think Parliament will be slow to place this responsibility upon any body which is not capable of being controlled. The noble Earl on the Cross Benches, Lord Rosebery, referred to the provisions in the Bill with regard to the notification of dangerous places. If the noble Earl thinks those provisions are not satisfactory, and will make a suggestion to me in writing, I will see if I can meet his views still further. I did not put my Amendment on the Notice Paper because I desired first to gather the wishes of noble Lords as to the precise form of words, and I hope I have succeeded. I am glad to think that we shall pass from this most important clause without any very serious divergence of opinion.

LORD TWEEDMOUTH said the Amendment which had been read to the House by his noble friend Lord Ribblesdale was practically his own Amendment, with a few words added, which he had handed to the noble Lord to suggest. He was glad that the Government were prepared to accept it, and he begged to withdraw his previous Amendment and to move it in the amended form.

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

Amendment moved—

"In page 3, line 36, after the word 'repeal,' to insert the words, 'provided that within any limits or place to which that section is applied by regulation made by the Local Government Board with a view to the safety of the public on the application of the Council of any County or County Borough the speed of any motor-car shall not exceed ten miles an hour.'"—(*Lord Tweedmouth.*)

THE MARQUESS OF GRANBY trusted that every possible effort would be made to prevent there being a large interregnum between the lapsing of the existing Act and the coming into operation of this Bill.

LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH: If this Bill should fortunately become law, there will be considerable time, between the end of July or the beginning of August and January 1st next, for the necessary arrangements to be made. I should view with disfavour any proposal to postpone the operation of the Bill.

THE EARL OF WEMYSS expressed regret that the Government, in giving way on this question, had fixed a speed limit. A speed of ten miles an hour was too fast in many dangerous places. The better way to have dealt with this would have been to enact that the speed should be that of ordinary horse traffic in like circumstances. He gave notice that on Report he would move the rejection of the speed limit and substitute "the speed of ordinary horse traffic in like circumstances."

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Drafting Amendments agreed to.

LORD RIBBLESDALE said the object of the next Amendment standing in his name was to fit the punishment to the crime. Under this clause a driver who infringed a by-law by going through the streets of, say, Winchester, at a mile or so above the speed limit would come under the same penalties as if he had been driving recklessly and furiously. He thought it was a remarkable provision that the Court before whom that man was brought could not deal with him except under the penalty clause. The fault of the Bill, as at present drafted, was that there was one tremendous penalty applicable to all kinds of offences.

Amendment moved—

"To insert the words 'and the Local Government Board may impose on any driver of a motor-car infringing such by-law, for the first offence a penalty not exceeding £5, and for any subsequent offence a penalty not exceeding £10, or in the discretion of the Court imprisonment for a term not exceeding one month.'"—(*Lord Ribblesdale.*)

LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH: The noble Lord is mistaken. A driver who merely exceeds the speed limit would not be guilty of an offence under the Act. He would be guilty of an offence under the by-law and would be punishable only by fine, the maximum fine being 10s.

LORD RIBBLESDALE asked whether, in the event of the owner of a motor-car saying to the *chauffeur*, "Never mind regulations; go as fast as you can," he would be liable for reckless driving.

THE LORD CHANCELLOR: Yes. Anyone who aids and abets the driver to commit an offence is liable in the first degree.

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

Consequential Amendments agreed to.

Clause 5, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 6.

THE EARL OF ROSSLYN moved an Amendment to give the Court in each case power to withhold or cancel a licence in addition to the fine or imprisonment.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 4, line 13, after the word 'months' to insert the words 'and the Court shall in each case have power to withhold or cancel a licence in addition to the fine or imprisonment.'"—(*The Earl of Rosslyn.*)

LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH: Clause 3 already gives the Court power to suspend a licence, and it is bound to endorse it.

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

*THE EARL OF NORTHBROOK asked the noble Lord in charge of the Bill how far the word "person" extended. The question was an important one, and had come up quite recently on one or two occasions. In one case he was informed that an officer in the Army, who had been driving a motor-car at the rate of nineteen miles an hour through a village, was summoned at the Petty Sessional Court. He was defended on behalf of the Treasury on the ground that the Crown did not come under the Act. Therefore, any servant of the Crown might endanger the lives of the public in any way he pleased without being amenable to the ordinary law. A similar case arose in his own county. The servant of a contractor for the War Office exceeded the speed limit laid down in the 4th Section of the Locomotives on Highways Act, 1865, and was summoned at the Petty Sessional Court. The excessive speed was admitted, and the man convicted and fined; but the Treasury called for a case to be stated, and it was argued out in the High Court, with the result that the sentence of the Magistrates was reversed on the ground that the Crown did not come within the Act of Parliament. He urged that some steps should be taken to bring officers in the Army, drivers of contractors' steam engines, and other servants of the Crown under the same obligations as applied to all other persons. Otherwise they would have officers who were attending manœuvres careering about on motor-cars at any speed they liked to the danger of the public.

LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH: I can hold out no hope to the noble Earl that anything can be done to derogate from the actual privileges of the Crown in this matter. Although he did not state the facts distinctly, I am sure he will at once admit that this could not happen except in the case of officers or servants who are actually on duty at the time.

*THE EARL OF NORTHBROOK said that one of the cases he alluded to was that of a driver of a traction engine employed by a contractor of the War Office. Surely it could not be contended that that man was on duty.

LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH: Of course, I cannot argue upon the exact facts of the case because I do not know them; but if the noble Earl will send me a report of the case I will promise to have it carefully considered. At the same time I do think that if any officer, even when on duty, unnecessarily endangers the public, he ought to be censured by the authorities.

*THE EARL OF NORTHBROOK said a censure was not enough. What he asked was that some steps should be taken to bring officers under the same obligation as applied to all other persons.

Clause 6 agreed to.

Clauses 7, 8 and 9 agreed to.

Amendment proposed—

"After Clause 9 to insert the following new clause: 'Nothing in this Act shall affect any liability of the driver or owner of a motor-car by virtue of any statute or at common law'."—(*Lord Balfour of Burleigh.*)

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Clauses 10 and 11 agreed to.

Clause 12.

THE EARL OF ABERDEEN explained that the object of his Amendment to this clause was to remove a grievance which existed at present with regard to motor-cycles. In the eyes of the law, if a motor-cyclist had attached to his machine an arrangement for conveying a passenger that machine was instantly transformed into a traction engine, and the legal speed limit then was six miles an hour. Cases had occurred where people had been fined for exceeding that limit, although the machine they had been driving was simply a motor-cycle, and he hoped this disability would be removed.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 5, after Sub-section (1) to insert as a new sub-section: 'In the case of motor-cycles to which an attachment is affixed for carrying one or more persons in addition to the rider of the cycle, such attachment shall not be dealt with as a separate vehicle'."—(*The Earl of Aberdeen.*)

LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH: There is no doubt that this machine, which, I believe, is called a trailer, is not a light locomotive for registration purposes, but I believe that for all other purposes it is. If there is any doubt about the present regulations they can be altered to meet the wishes of the noble Earl. His Amendment only appeared on the paper to-day, and if he would allow me to look into it before the next stage I should be glad. I have no doubt that I shall be able to say that the present regulations cover it, but if they do not I will have them altered to meet the point.

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

Clause 12 agreed to.

Bill reported, with Amendments, to the House.

THE EARL OF WEMYSS: Will the Bill be circulated as amended before the next stage?

LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH: Yes. I do not think there will be any difficulty about that. If we were to postpone the Standing Committee till next Tuesday I think we should imperil the Bill, and I propose, therefore, to ask that a special meeting of the Standing Committee be held on Thursday. I believe the Bill can easily be circulated before that time, and then we can take any points left over from to-day. I am exceedingly anxious to get the Bill down in the other House this week in order that it may have a chance of being passed into law this session.

Bill re-committed to the Standing Committee; and to be printed as amended.

METROPOLITAN STREETS BILL.

[SECOND READING.]

Order of the Day for the second reading read.

LORD BELPER: My Lords, this is a very small Bill, and its object is to extend the power which the police possess under the Metropolitan Streets Act, 1867, of regulating the traffic, to the making of regulations as to the places where, and the conditions under which, persons may collect money in a public street for charitable or other purposes. Very great inconvenience and annoyance has been caused in many cases by persons collecting money in the streets. There was one notable case this year where the unemployed marched about the streets in large numbers pressing people to give subscriptions. It had been believed that the Vagrants' Act would to some extent meet these cases, but owing to decisions that have been given it has been found that this law is practically inoperative in dealing with these particular cases. Section 11 of the Act of 1867 gives power to the police for regulating traffic. This is a matter quite akin to that, and is merely a slight extension of the powers they already have. The Bill is to be enforced within six miles of Charing Cross. Many societies who collect subscriptions in the streets in this way have been consulted and they have no objection to regulations; in many cases they would be willing to have the collections put a stop to altogether. The Bill has passed through the other House not only without any Amendment but without opposition. It is a much needed measure, and I hope your Lordships will give it a Second Reading.

On question, Bill read 2^a (according to Order), and committed to a Committee of the Whole House on Tuesday next.

MOTOR-CAR PROSECUTION.

Lord HENEAGE: I beg to ask His Majesty's Government whether there have been any prosecutions of owners of motor-cars under Section 5 of the 11th and 12th Victoria, chap. 43, for aiding and abetting an offence against the Locomotives Act of 1896; whether it is possible to obtain any evidence against the owner under the Summary Jurisdiction Act; and further, whether, if any evidence was forthcoming from the driver or other occupant of the motor-car, the owner would be liable to the penalties in the proposed Act.

Lord BALFOUR of BURLEIGH: There is no available information as to the prosecutions under Section 5 of the Summary Jurisdiction Act, nor can such information be obtained without a great deal of trouble and investigation. As regards the remainder of the Question, the obtaining of evidence against the owner must depend upon the circumstances of each particular case. If the owner is proved, however, to have aided, abetted, counselled, or procured the commission of the offence, he is liable to the same penalties as the principal offender. Under Section 5 not only is the owner liable, but any other person on the car who aids and abets in the commission of the offence is also liable.

House adjourned at ten minutes before Eight o'clock, to Thursday next, half-past Ten o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Tuesday, 21st July, 1903.

The House met at Two of the Clock.

COMMISSION.

Message to attend the Lords Commissioners.

The House went; and being returned—

Mr. Speaker reported the Royal Assent to a number of Bills. [See page 1245.]

THE CHAIRMAN OF WAYS AND MEANS.

The Clerk at the Table informed the House of the unavoidable absence of the Chairman of Ways and Means.

UNOPPOSED PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Derby Gas Bill [Lords]. Read the third time, and passed, with Amendments.

Dudley, Stourbridge and District Tramways Bill [Lords]. Read the third time, and passed, with an Amendment.

Lochnell Estate Bill [Lords]. Read the third time, and passed, without Amendment.

Poole and District Electric Traction Bill [Lords]. Read the third time, and passed, with Amendments.

Taff Vale Railway Bill [Lords]. [Not amended], considered; to be read the third time.

Pier and Harbour Provisional Orders (No. 5) Bill. Lords' Amendment considered, and agreed to.

Gas Orders Confirmation (No. 2) Bill [Lords]. Read the third time, and passed, with Amendments.

STANDING ORDERS.

Resolutions reported from the Select Committee:—

1. "That, in the case of the South Western and Isle of Wight Junction Railway Bill [Lords], the Standing Orders ought to be dispensed with: That the parties be permitted to proceed with their Bill."

2. "That, in the case of the Naval Works (Portsmouth Barracks Site) Bill, the Standing Orders ought to be dispensed with: That the Bill be permitted to proceed."

Resolutions agreed to.

South Western and Isle of Wight Junction Railway Bill [Lords]. Report [this day] from the Select Committee on Standing Orders read.

Bill to be read a second time.

Bristol Corporation Bill [Lords]; Gosport and Fareham Tramways Bill [Lords]; Hove, Worthing, and District Tramways Bill [Lords]; South Eastern and London, Chatham, and Dover Railways Bill [Lords]. Reported, with Amendments; Reports to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

Board of Agriculture and Fisheries Bill [Lords]. Read the first time; to be read a second time to-morrow, and to be printed. [Bill 290.]

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.

That they have agreed to—City and South London Railway Bill; Romford and District Tramways Bill; Newcastle-on Tyne Electric Supply Bill; Woolwich Borough Council Bill, with Amendments.

That they have passed a Bill, intituled, "An Act for incorporating and conferring powers on the Scottish Central Electric Power Company." [Scottish Central Electric Power Bill (Lords).]

Scottish Central Electric Power Bill [Lords]. Read the first time; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills.

PETITIONS

CHEAP TRAINS BILL.

Petition from Woolwich, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

COAL MINES REGULATION BILL.

Petition from Glyncymmer, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

DETENTION OF POOR PERSONS (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Petition from Dunnichen, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

LICENCES RENEWAL AND TRANSFER BILL AND LICENSING LAW (COMPENSATION FOR NON-RENEWAL) BILL.

Petition from Urmston, against; to lie upon the Table.

LICENSING (SCOTLAND) ACTS AMENDMENT BILL.

Petition from Leith, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

PREVENTION OF CORRUPTION BILL.

Petitions in favour: from Briton Ferry; Glyncorrwg; and Nantymoel; to lie upon the Table.

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS ON SUNDAY BILL.

Petition from Monton Green, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

TRADE DISPUTES BILL.

Petition from Glyncymmer, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

INEBRIATES ACT, 1898, PRISONS (SCOTLAND) ACT, 1877.

Paper [presented 8th June] to be printed. [No. 265.]

WINTER ASSIZES ACTS, 1876 AND 1877.

Copies presented, of Seven Orders in Council of 9th July, 1903, relating to the ensuing Winter Assizes [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

QUEEN'S COLLEGE, CORK.

Copy presented, of Report of the President for the Session 1902–3, with Appendices [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

LAND LAW (IRELAND) ACT, 1887 (EVICTION NOTICES).

Copy presented, of Return of Eviction Notices filed during the quarter ended 30th June, 1903 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

RAILWAY ACCIDENTS.

Copy presented, of Returns of Accidents and Casualties as reported to the Board of Trade by the several Railway Companies in the United Kingdom during the three months ending 31st March, 1903, together with Reports of the Inspecting Officers, Assistant Inspecting Officers, and Sub-Inspectors of the Railway Department to the Board of Trade upon certain accidents which were inquired into [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

SEA FISHERIES ACT, 1868.

Copy presented, of Report of the Board of Trade under Part III. of the Act. Orders for Fishery Grants, 1902–3 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 266.]

TRADE REPORTS (ANNUAL SERIES).

Copies presented, of Diplomatic and Consular Reports, Annual Series, Nos. 3036 and 3037 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

CONSULAR SERVICE (MISCELLANEOUS, No. 3, 1903).

Copy presented, of Report of the Committee appointed to inquire into the constitution of the Consular Service, 2nd July, 1903, [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

METROPOLITAN WATER COMPANIES.

Return ordered, "of the Accounts, as they are respectively made up, of the Metropolitan Water Companies, and of the Staines Reservoirs Joint Committee to the 30th day of September and the 31st day of December, 1902 (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper, No. 286, of Session 1902)."—(*Mr. Grant Lawson.*)

BRITISH COLONIES (DUTIES ON IMPORTS).

Return ordered, "of the amounts received respectively by British Colonies from Duties on Imports in the years 1882, 1892, and the last year published and their population at those periods."—(*Mr. Alfred Davies.*)

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

Delays in fixing Fair Rents in Limerick.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND (Clare, E.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland if he can state the reason for the delay in the announcement of the decision of the Sub-Land Commissioner on the applications made to fix fair rents in Limerick on 18th March.

(*Answered by Mr. Wyndham.*) Decisions have been announced in twenty-one out of twenty-six cases heard on the date mentioned. In a number of other cases heard at the same sittings, but on subsequent dates, the work of inspection by the Assistant Commissioners has been delayed by circumstances incidental to the system of rent-fixing.

Exports to Foreign Countries of Cotton and Woollen Goods and Cutlery.

COLONEL DENNY (Kilmarnock Burghs): To ask the Secretary to the Board of Trade what is the total amount and total value of our exports to foreign countries of woollen goods, of cotton goods, and of cutlery respectively in 1877, 1882, 1887, 1892, 1897, and 1902.

(*Answered by Mr. Gerald Balfour.*) If my hon. friend desires this information his best course is to move for it in the form of a Return; but I fear that a good deal of the information asked for cannot be given.

Relative Prices of Corn in England and Italy.

Mr. GIBSON BOWLES (Lynn Regis): To ask the President of the Board of Trade if he can state the price of corn of similar quality per quarter on some recent date in this month in Italy and England respectively, and the rate of import duty per quarter levied in Italy on corn at that same date.

(*Answered by Mr. Gerald Balfour.*) As the hon. Member's Question refers to prices and duties in Italy as well as the United Kingdom I shall be glad of two or three days time to enable me to supply the information.

Cotton Trade—Deficiency of Raw Cotton.

Sir WILLIAM HOLLAND (Yorkshire, W. R., Rotherham): To ask the President of the Board of Trade whether he has any information as to the cause of the short time now being largely worked in the Lancashire cotton trade; and, in case that information goes to show that such short time is due to a deficiency in our imports of raw cotton, whether he will use the good offices of the Government with the view of increasing such imports.

(*Answered by Mr. Gerald Balfour.*) I am aware of the importance of this matter, but the cotton industry are as well able to form an opinion as the Government as to the commercial position which has caused short time to be worked; and, with regard to the last part of the Question, I may say that the Department is ready to give any practicable help towards increasing the sources of supply of raw cotton.

Safety of Travelling Public on Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway.

Mr. MARSHALL HALL (Lancashire, Southport): To ask the President of the Board of Trade whether, in view of the recent accident at the Waterloo Station of the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway, he will take such steps as he deems necessary to secure the safety of the public before the process of electrification of that portion of this company's railway system is completed.

(*Answered by Mr. Gerald Balfour.*) An inquiry into the causes of the accident will be held this week on behalf of the Board of Trade. At present I have no information that the accident was due in any way to the process of electrification of a portion of the railway company's lines.

Superannuation Allowance to Servants of Metropolitan Boroughs.

Sir GEORGE FARDELL (Paddington, S.): To ask the President of the Local Government Board if his attention has been drawn to a certificate of the district auditor sanctioning a charge against the general rate of the borough of Camberwell in respect of superannuation allowance granted by the Council of that Borough to a road sweeper who had been continuously employed by the Vestry and Borough Council for seventeen years, the auditor being of opinion that as the sweeper in question had discharged a definable office in the service of the Vestry and Borough Council he became, in the absence of any definition to the contrary, an officer within the meaning of the Superannuation (Metropolis) Act, 1866; and whether the Local Government Board will sanction the Metropolitan Borough Councils granting similar allowances in the future until such time as the Acts relating to superannuation have been amended.

(*Answered by Mr. Walter Long.*) My attention has been called to the case referred to. I have no authority to decide the legal point involved except upon an appeal to me against the auditor's decision as to some particular charge of the kind mentioned; but I may state that, so far as an opinion can at present be formed on the subject, I am advised that the expenditure in question was lawful. This was the view taken by the auditor, and he accordingly allowed the charge in the accounts. The only effect of sanction on my part to any such expenditure would be to prevent the auditor from disallowing it, and in the circumstances above stated there seems to be no need for any such sanction.

Smallpox—Isolation or Vaccination of Persons exposed to Infection.

Colonel SADLER (Middlesbrough): To ask the President of the Local Government Board if he will favourably consider the desirability of making an order for preventing the spread of smallpox to the effect that all persons who have been exposed to the infection thereof should be isolated during the incubation period of the disease, or alternatively vaccinated or revaccinated; and further that it should be made an offence to withhold information or give false information in respect to cases of smallpox.

(*Answered by Mr. Walter Long.*) I will consider the expediency of giving local authorities further powers in relation to these matters. But legislation would probably be necessary if the subject is to be dealt with satisfactorily.

Classification of Telegraph Offices.

MR. TANKERVILLE CHAMBERLAYNE (Southampton): To ask the Postmaster-General if he will state in what year the necessary condition on which a telegraph office could be placed in Schedule A was altered from the total number of the established force to the aggregate amount of business done; and if he will state what is the aggregate amount of business required to be performed before a postal and telegraph office can be permitted to enter Group 2.

(*Answered by Mr. Austen Chamberlain.*) The hon. Member is under a misapprehension. The transfer of an office from Schedule B to Schedule A, has never at any time depended on the number of the established force, but on the number of letters or telegrams dealt with. The present method of calculation takes into account not only the number of letters and telegrams, but all the other branches of business transacted. It could not, I fear, be properly explained in answer to a Question in this House.

Kishnieff Outrages—Punishment of Offenders.

MR. COHEN (Islington, E.): To ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether His Majesty's Government have received any Report from His Majesty's Consul at Odessa concerning the punishment of the authors of the Kishnieff massacres.

(*Answered by Lord Cranborne.*) No Report has yet been received.

Corn Duty—Result to Farmers.

MR. LAMBERT (Devonshire, South Molton): To ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he has any official statistics showing the approximate extra amount paid to the farmer on account of the corn duty and the equivalent amount paid by him in respect of corn and feeding-stuffs for consumption.

(*Answered by Mr. Ritchie.*) As regards the amount of the corn duty which fell on feeding-stuffs, the best estimate that can be made is that which was given to a deputation by my right hon. friend the First Lord of the Treasury on the 15th May—viz., somewhat over £500,000. As regards the first point in the Question, I have no information.

Pension for Customs Watcher Charles Upton.

CAPTAIN NORTON (Newington, W.): To ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether he will consider the advisability of granting some small pension to a Customs watcher, Charles Upton, who has recently retired from the service at the age of sixty-five and, after serving forty-one years, without pension from any source.

(*Answered by Mr. Elliot.*) The Treasury have no power under the Superannuation Acts to award a pension to Charles Upton, whose service was unestablished throughout. Upton received a gratuity on retirement of £47 13s. 2d., to which he was entitled under the Superannuation Act, 1887.

Contempt of Court—Suggested Fresh Legislation.

MR. FIELD (Dublin, St. Patrick): To ask Mr. Attorney-General whether, in view of the fact that the procedure enabling Judges to commit for contempt of Court has not been regulated by statute, he will advise the Government to introduce a Bill to amend the administration of Judge-made law.

(*Answered by Sir Robert Finlay.*) I have nothing to add to the answer made on this subject by the First Lord of the Treasury on the 8th inst.,† to which I beg to refer the hon. Member.

---

† See page 32.

Repair of Irish National Schools Damaged by Storm.

Sir THOMAS ESMONDE (Wexford, N.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland what steps will be taken to provide funds for the repair of Irish national schools damaged in the great storm of February last.

(*Answered by Mr. Atkinson.*) I would refer to my right hon. friend's reply to the Question addressed to him on this subject on the 22nd ultimo by the hon. Member for East Galway.†

Erection of National Schools in Ireland—Report of Committee.

Mr. T. M. HEALY (Louth, N.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland has the Committee to which the question of the revision of the standard plans for national schools was referred by the Commissioners of the National Board yet made a Report; if so, what is the nature of the Report, and when will its effect be communicated to managers who have so far back as two years ago made application for grants for the erection of new schools; and what has been the cause of the delay.

(*Answered by Mr. Atkinson.*) The Committee inquired into the subject of plans, specifications, and grants for building school-houses. It has made a Report, which, being a Departmental document, it is not proposed to publish. Pending a final decision on the Report, the Commissioners will allow the building of schools in urgent cases to proceed under the old regulations and on the old plans, if the managers prefer that course to waiting for the revised rules and plans.

Agricultural and Technical Instruction in Ireland—Return of Grants made.

Mr. T. M. HEALY: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland if he would grant a Return of all sums of money paid by the Department of Agriculture and Technical Industries (Ireland) to each county or borough authority or private individual in each year since the inception of the Department, showing the purpose of such grant and the amount of local contributions in each case, and the source of such local contributions.

(*Answered by Mr. Atkinson.*) A Return containing all the particulars asked for, which practically cover every payment made by the Department since 1st April, 1900, would be a very voluminous one. Its preparation would involve much time and labour, and it does not appear to the Department that it would serve any useful public object. At pages 98 to 103 of the Department's First Annual General Report for 1900-1901, and at pages 128 to 134 of their Second General Report for 1901–1902, will be found, summarised under a large variety of heads, particulars as to the Department's expenditure out of their Endowment Fund, the Parliamentary Grant, and the General Cattle Diseases Fund, and Cattle Pleuro-Pneumonia Account, and further particulars as to the purposes of and mode of administering these moneys are given in the body of the Reports under the various heads of the Department's operations. Similar information will appear in each subsequent Report. Local contributions from County and Urban Councils are derived from the rates, a rate of either a ½d. or 1d. in the £ being levied annually as a general rule. Payments to individuals are made only for services rendered, or as compensation for the loss of swine slaughtered under the Diseases of Animals Acts, or by way of loan for purchase of boats, fishing gear, bulls, stallions, and such like purposes.

Extension of Mullingar Rifle Range.

Mr. HAYDEN (Roscommon, S.): To ask the Secretary of State for War whether the military authorities have approved of the extension of the rifle range at Mullingar, and whether an agreement as to price has been arrived at between them and the owners and occupiers of the land required for this enlargement; and whether, seeing that in consequence of the delay in proceeding with the work the regiments stationed in the town have had to be sent at great expense a long distance for the prescribed practice, he can state the cause of this delay, and consequent inconvenience and expense.

(*Answered by Mr Secretary Brodrick.*) The purchase of the land required has not yet been completed

---

† See (4) *Debates*, cxxiv., 75.

Training of Military Cadets after leaving Royal Military College.

CAPTAIN NORTON: To ask the Secretary of State for War whether he can see his way to continuing the training of the military cadets after they leave the Royal Military College, either by attaching them as supernumeraries, or by sending them through courses of musketry, equitation, engineering, and topography; and also whether their permanent postings to regiments can be accelerated by absorbing only one supernumerary in every two vacancies.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Brodrick.*) It is intended to give the cadets at the College a thorough training in all the subjects mentioned, and no necessity should arise for attaching them for special courses. A considerable number of supernumeraries have already been allowed so as to obviate as far as possible delay in gazetting, but in the case of candidates who prefer to wait for vacancies in special regiments, considerable extra delay may arise.

War Office Contracts—Alleged Infringement of Fair Wage Resolution by Messrs. Francis & Son, of Deptford.

CAPTAIN NORTON: To ask the Secretary of State for War whether a case of illegal infringement of the Fair Wages Resolution of 1891, in connection with the tin plate workers, by the firm of Messrs. Francis & Son, of Deptford, has been brought to his notice; whether he is aware that, according to an undertaking arrived at in 1897, the firm agreed to pay not less than 8d. per hour, whereas they are now paying only 7d. and 7½d., and whether he will use his good offices with the firm in question in the interest of their employees.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Brodrick.*) The attention of the Secretary of State for War has been called to an alleged infringement of the Fair Wages Resolution. The undertaking referred to applied to a contract in 1897. The present case will necessitate a fresh inquiry, which now awaits particulars which a deputation of the workmen promised to furnish.

Prior Assault Case.

MR. H. C. RICHARDS (Finsbury, E.): To ask the Secretary of State for War if his attention has been called to the police-court proceedings taken against one of the defendants in the recent Stanford Court-martial, and the decision of the stipendiary magistrate thereon at the Marlborough Street Police Court, to the effect that the officer in question had been guilty of an unprovoked assault upon one who was serving a writ, and that, in the magistrate's opinion, the defendant had made a false statement upon oath; and, if so, will he say what proceedings will be taken by the War Office in this case?

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Brodrick.*) Will my hon. friend kindly refer to my reply to a Question put on this subject by the hon. Member for South Donegal on Thursday, the 16th.†

The Fiscal Inquiry.

SIR EDGAR VINCENT (Exeter): To ask the First Lord of the Treasury if the question of the transit of Canadian corn through America, and of American corn through Canada, in connection with the proposed preferential tariff, will be included in the fiscal inquiry; and if detailed information concerning the facts of the trade will be presented to this House.

SIR EDGAR VINCENT: To ask the First Lord of the Treasury if the question of transport, both in the colonies and between them and Great Britain, and its bearing upon possible tariff arrangements will be included in the fiscal inquiry which is now proceeding.

(*Answered by Mr. A. J. Balfour.*) With regard to these Questions in the name of my hon. friend, it would, I think, be inexpedient, on the one hand, to lay down any limits beyond which the inquiry ought not to go, and, on the other, formally to include within it everything which could be described as germane to the subject. If the first course were adopted it might be found that most important topics were excluded; if the second the range of investigation might become almost unmanageable.

Woolwich Explosion—Provision for Widows and Children of Men killed.

MR. TANKERVILLE CHAMBERLAYNE: To ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether it is the intention of the Government to make any provision for the wives and children of the workmen killed in the recent explosion at Woolwich.

---

† See page 861.

(*Answered by Mr. A. J. Balfour.*) Provision has been made for the relief of the widows and children of the men who lost their lives in the recent explosion at Woolwich.

QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE.

Military Works Bill.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES (Lynn Regis): May I ask whether, in accordance with the practice pursued in the case of the Naval Works Bill, the Secretary of State for War will now inform the House the gross amount to be asked for in respect of military works?

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (Mr. BRODRICK, Surrey, Guildford): I am not aware of any precedent for doing so, and I should have thought it most inconvenient to forestall a statement to be made in a few moments by a Question put on the floor of the House.

Irish Tailors and Army Contracts.

MR. FIELD (Dublin, St. Patrick): I beg to ask the Financial Secretary to the War Office whether, in view of the feeling of the members of the Master Tailors' Association of Dublin respecting the present system, under which certain London firms are given opportunities for the supply of uniforms, he will arrange that equal opportunities shall be given to Irish master-tailors in future as was allowed previous to the new regulation coming into force.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO THE WAR OFFICE (Lord STANLEY, Lancashire, Westhoughton): The reply which I gave to a Question put by the hon. Member on the 13th instant appears to cover this Question also.† It is not clear what further point the hon. Member is now raising.

Colonial Imports of Foreign Goods.

MR. WINSTON CHURCHILL (Oldham): On behalf of the Hon. Member for Exeter I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies if he can state the nature of imports into the self-governing colonies from foreign countries, classifying them into manufactured and unmanufactured, and showing specifically those imports which might be furnished by Great Britain.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES (Mr. J. CHAMBERLAIN, Birmingham, W.): The Return which the Board of Trade have offered to give in reply to the Question put yesterday by the hon. Member for Derbyshire would give information as to the imports into the self-governing colonies from foreign countries classified in a similar manner to that desired by the hon. Member; but to attempt a classification on the basis of what must be largely a matter of opinion, namely, whether the articles are such as could be furnished by the United Kingdom, is impossible. I am aware of no reason why the United Kingdom should not furnish any or all of the manufactured articles usually imported into the colonies from foreign countries.

MR. WINSTON CHURCHILL: Will the Return be issued in the form asked for in the Question?

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: No, the Return already promised will give all the information required.

MR. WINSTON CHURCHILL: I think the intention of my hon. friend was to elicit the opinion of the Department on the subject.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: I do not understand that from the form in which he has put the Question. What the hon. Member asks is not for an opinion, but that I should show specifically those imports which might be furnished by Great Britain. If the opinion of a head of an office is of any advantage to the hon. Member, I beg leave to say that it is my opinion that they could all be furnished.

---

† See Page 400.

Colonial Commercial Treaties.

MR. BLACK (Banffshire): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies, whether, in view of the fact that it has heretofore been the usage for the self-governing colonies to bargain as to commercial treaties on equal terms with foreign nations and with the mother country without regard in the case of foreign nations to the fiscal policy of the mother country, the Government proposes to alter this usage.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: The practice as to commercial arrangements between self-governing colonies and foreign countries is described in the despatch of my predecessor of 28th June, 1895, which was laid before Parliament on the 6th of July in that year.

MR. BLACK: Is there any proposal by the Government to change the usage?

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: If there should be any such proposal it will be duly submitted for the consideration of Parliament.

Commission of Inquiry on Native Labour in British South Africa.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether, in the composition of the proposed Commission of Inquiry on the subject of the native labour supply for British South Africa, care will be taken that other interests besides those of the mining properties are duly represented.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: Of the ten Members who are to compose the Commission, the Cape and Natal Governments will nominate two each, and the Administration of Southern Rhodesia one. I have not yet received Lord Milner's proposals for the appointment of representatives of the Crown Colonies.

Canadian Tariffs.

MR. BLACK: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether certain of the colonies receive a trade preference from Canada while others do not; and; if so, can he state for what reason Canada differentiates between these colonies.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: The Canadian Customs Tariff Act of 1898 extends preferential treatment to certain colonies specifically and also generally to any "British colony or possession the Customs tariff of which is, on the whole, as favourable to Canada as the British preferential tariff herein referred to is to such colony or possession." The reason for the differentiation is stated in the clause I have quoted

The Colonies and the Brussels Sugar Convention.

MR. LOUGH (Islington, W.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether, under Article 11, the Brussels Sugar Convention has now been laid before all the colonies in order that they may have an opportunity of expressing their adhesion to the Convention; and what replies have been received.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: The Brussels Sugar Convention was communicated to all the colonies in a despatch dated the 21st of April, 1902. None of the colonies propose to adhere to the Convention.

Brussels Sugar Convention—British Obligations.

MR. LOUGH: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether, seeing that under Article 11 of the Brussels Convention it is provided that no preference will be granted in the United Kingdom to colonial sugar as against sugar from the contracting States during the continuance of the Convention, and, seeing that the value of the imports of sugar last year exceeded £20,000,000, whether the Government intend, in connection with their new fiscal inquiry, to take any steps that may enable them to modify this arrangement.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: The hon. Member will be aware that His Majesty's Government are bound by the obligations of the Brussels Sugar Convention for five years from the 1st of September next.

Brussels Sugar Convention—Colonial Bounties.

MR. LOUGH: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether, under Article 11 of the Brussels Sugar Convention, information has been obtained as to whether any bounty, direct or indirect, exists in any Crown Colony; and what is the result of the inquiry.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: No bounty, direct or indirect, will be granted upon the production or exportation of sugar in any Crown Colony after the 1st of September next, when the Brussels Convention comes into force.

MR. LOUGH: Are there any bounties in existence which will have to be suppressed?

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: No, Sir.

Railway Construction in South Africa—Native Labour.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he is aware that, in the conditions of contract accompanying the invitation issued on behalf of His Majesty's Government for tenders for construction of the new railways in the Transvaal and Orange River Colonies, it is stipulated that contractors shall not employ any natives who reside in or are recruited from that portion of the Transvaal which lies north of Pretoria, nor any native from Portuguese East Africa; and, if so, will he state what is the reason of the restriction.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: My attention has been drawn to an advertisement for tenders which quotes the conditions referred to. I have not received any Report from Lord Milner on the subject, but the conditions are no doubt inserted in pursuance of the Resolution No. XII., passed by the Railway Extension Conference (see p. 87, Cd. 1552).

Plague in Hong Kong.

MR. WEIR (Ross and Cromarty): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he is aware that, under an order of the Governor of Hong Kong, Chinese plague patients are allowed to remain in their homes for treatment; and, seeing that this practice is opposed by medical opinion in the colony, will he, in view of the increase in plague, have the order reconsidered, with a view to the removal of all plague patients to isolation hospitals.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: I understand that the Hong Kong Government is making the experiment of allowing plague patients to be treated in isolation in their own homes, instead of compelling them in all cases to be removed to hospital. The experiment is being tried because it is believed that many patients, owing to the great dislike of hospital treatment, have concealed their state of health until it was too late for them to be cured. The results of the experiment will be carefully watched.

MR. WEIR: Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that houses in China usually contain 200 or 300 inhabitants.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: I am not aware of that fact, but whether it be true or not it does not affect what I have said.

MR. WEIR: If the right hon. Gentleman will visit Hong Kong he will find it is the case.

Hong Kong Post Office.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether any one of the plans for the new Post Office at Hong Kong which were sent in last March has been accepted; and, if so, will he state when the erection of the building will be commenced.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: I have no information on this subject, which is one of purely local interest.

Commission on Indian Police—Report.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India if he will state when the Report of the Commission on the Indian police will be laid upon the Table of the House.

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA (Earl PERCY, Kensington, S.): I can give no undertaking at present with regard to the publication of this Report.

India and the Brussels Sugar Convention.

MR. LOUGH: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether, under Article 11, the Brussels Sugar Convention has now been laid before the Indian Government in order that it may have an opportunity of expressing its adhesion to the Convention; and what reply has been received.

EARL PERCY: The Government of India do not propose to apply to be admitted to the Convention.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES: I believe I am right in saying that the Convention was communicated to the Indian Government in April last year? When was their reply received?

EARL PERCY: I must ask for notice of that Question.

Chinese Railways.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, if he will state when the concession for the proposed British railway from Kowloon to Canton was granted, and the names of the concessionaires; and, in view of the activity shown by the American syndicate in constructing their line from Canton to Hankow, can he explain why the proposed British railway has not yet been commenced.

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (Lord CRANBORNE, Rochester): The British and Chinese Corporation were granted a preliminary agreement for the concession on the 28th March, 1898. The line has since been surveyed. This instrument provides for a final agreement to be signed in terms corresponding with those of the Shanghai-Nanking Railway Concession. The latter has only recently been concluded.

National Expenditure—The Sinking Fund.

MR. WINSTON CHURCHILL: On behalf of the hon. Member for Exeter I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will state the estimated amount to be devoted to the Sinking Fund in the financial year 1903–4, and the aggregate amount of money to be spent on capital account during the same year and not included in the annual Budget.

THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER (Mr. RITCHIE, Croydon): The portion of the fixed debt charge of £27,000,000 applicable to Sinking Fund purposes in 1903–4 is, according to the latest calculations, £6,640,000, and it will be devoted to the extinction of what is termed dead-weight debt. The amount to be spent on capital account, which is in part required for reproductive purposes, and against which assets are held, is estimated during the same year at £9,300,000; but whatever sum is required and borrowed for these purposes is raised on terminable annuities, which automatically provide a special Sinking Fund borne on the Votes and thus ensure repayment within a limited period. The Sinking Fund contained in the terminable annuities in respect of capital advances already made amounts to £1,007,000.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES: In order to clear up this matter, may I ask am I right in assuming that when the right hon. Gentleman mentions the Sinking Fund he does not include what is known as the old Sinking Fund? Am I also right in saying, with respect to the new Sinking Fund, it is not £6,640,000, but £1,500,000 or thereabouts?

MR. RITCHIE: In reply to the first Question, the old Sinking Fund is not included. As to the second Question, I think the new Sinking Fund is between £1,500,000 and £1,600,000. That is included in the £6,640,000.

MR. LOUGH: Will the net effect of the transaction of this year be to add £10,000,000 to the National Debt.

MR. RITCHIE: The hon. Member is as well able to make that calculation as I am.

Retaliatory Tariffs and the National Income.

MR. BLACK: I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer, in view of the fact that the Government has now intimated to Germany that in certain events it will impose retaliatory or differential duties on importations into this country, whether he has any information as to the probable effect of such duties upon the national revenue as regards income tax and death duties.

*MR. RITCHIE: I have exercised all the ingenuity I can command in the endeavour to find out the connection between retaliatory duties against Germany and the death duties and I have not been able to discover it.

MR. BLACK: Would not retaliatory tariffs affect the national revenue?

[No answer was returned.]

Mercantile Marine Committee.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether it is intended to act upon the Report of the Mercantile Marine Committee, appointed in January, 1902, published at the beginning of June; and whether the seven recommendations to which effect can be given without legislation will at once be carried into effect.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF TRADE (Mr. GERALD BALFOUR, Leeds, Central): Yes, Sir. The Board of Trade concur in the recommendations of the Mercantile Marine Committee, and propose to act upon them. So far as that can be done without legislation, steps are already being taken by the Department. I may add that a Bill dealing with the recommendation, requiring legislation has also been prepared.

Irish Traffic Arrangements—Sleeping Accommodation.

MR. CHARLES CRAIG (Antrim, S.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Board of Trade if his attention has been called to the fact that the London and North-Western Railway Company have raised the price of sleeping accommodation in their trains to 7s. 6d. between Holyhead and London, while it is only 5s. between London and any other station south of Carlisle; and whether, having regard to the disadvantage thereby imposed on the Irish tourist traffic, he will take steps to have representations made to the company with a view to having this charge altered.

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: I am aware that the charges are as stated. The Board of Trade are not empowered to intervene in the matter, but I have caused the hon. Member's Question to be brought to the notice of the railway company.

London Printing Trade Dispute.

MR. SKEWES-COX (Surrey, Kingston): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Board of Trade if he will explain why the Board of Trade have, up to the present time, declined to intervene under the powers of the Conciliation Act in the dispute in the London printing trade, and state what steps they propose taking in the interest of all parties to bring about a settlement of the dispute.

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: The Board of Trade have not declined to intervene in this case. They have been in communication with both sides, and have expressed their readiness to take action under the Conciliation Act if the parties are willing to accept their services. So far one of the parties has failed to agree to the course suggested. As the hon. Member is aware the Conciliation Act confers no compulsory powers on the Board of Trade; but they are watching the case, and will be glad to take any action that may seem likely to promote a settlement should an opportunity occur.

Highland Weaving Industry.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the Lord Advocate whether the steps taken by the Congested Districts Board to encourage the weaving of Lewis and Harris tweeds, have resulted in an increased production in the crofting counties; and, if so, can he state approximately to what extent.

*THE LORD ADVOCATE (Mr. A. GRAHAM MURRAY, Buteshire): Some improvement both in the quantity and quality of tweeds woven in the Western Hebrides is reported to us as having taken place. It is not possible at present to state the amount of increase in quantity, but information will be collected so far as possible and given in the next Report of the Congested Districts Board.

Pollution of the Rivers in Fifeshire.

MR. EUGENE WASON (Clackmannan and Kinross): I beg to ask the Lord Advocate whether he will instruct the

Local Government (Scotland) Board, which is at present inquiring into the pollution of the River Ore in Fifeshire, which gave rise to an epidemic of typhoid in that district, to make inquiry into the pollution of the Black Devon, which is the main source of water supply for the county of Clackmannan.

*MR. A. GRAHAM MURRAY: The suggestion of the hon. Member that inquiry should be made into the condition of the Black Devon will receive the careful consideration of the Secretary for Scotland.

MR. EUGENE WASON: Were not representations made before the typhoid broke out?

[No answer was returned.]

Kerry and the Congested Districts Board.

MR. THOMAS O'DONNELL (Kerry, W.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether, considering the population of congested Kerry is over 80,000, or one-sixth of the whole of congested Ireland, that the emigration is the highest in Ireland, the poverty and needs of the people as great as in any part of the congested areas, and that since the formation of the Congested Districts Board no man from Kerry has been co-opted, and that little or nothing has been done for the people, he will nominate a man from Kerry to fill the next vacancy.

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL FOR IRELAND (Mr. ATKINSON, Londonderry, N., for Mr. WYNDHAM): My right hon. friend replied to a similar Question put to him yesterday by the same hon. Member.† The claims of Kerry will be duly considered on the occurrence of a vacancy on the Board.

MR. FLAVIN (Kerry, N.): Will the matter receive the consideration it merits?

MR. ATKINSON: When I said that it will be duly considered I think I conveyed that.

Belturbet Rent Collector and Local Government Auditor.

MR. J. P. FARRELL (Longford, N.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he will state under what circumstances Major Eccles, Local Government Auditor, surcharged Mr. Thomas Dolan, rent collector to the Belturbet Urban District Council, in the sum of £206 14s., and explain why Major Eccles made this surcharge without making any examination of the rent books since he was placed in charge of the district; and will he order an examination of the books by an independent person, seeing that the rental of the Urban Council stands in such order as satisfies the Council at present.

MR. ATKINSON (for Mr. WYNDHAM): I am informed that an application is about to be made to the King's Bench Division for a mandamus to set aside the Order made by the Local Government Board confirming this surcharge. I cannot, under the circumstances, discuss the action of the auditor or Local Government Board in the matter, at the present moment.

Dublin Sorting Office—Bank Holidays.

MR. NANNETTI (Dublin, College Green): I beg to ask the Postmaster-General if he is aware that, under the new leave regulations introduced January, 1903, into the Dublin Sorting Office, payment for bank holidays was withheld and the privilege of having a day off when it suited, in lieu of bank holiday, withdrawn; and whether, seeing that this was an abrogation of the accepted recommendation of the Tweedmouth Commission regarding bank holidays, will he consider the advisability of reverting to the old system.

THE POSTMASTER-GENERAL (Mr. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN, Worcestershire, E.): Payment is still made at Dublin for bank holiday work when the hours worked are too few to justify the granting of a day in lieu. The present system is a necessary condition of the arrangements under which the entire force are enabled to take the bulk of their holidays in the better months of the year, and I am not prepared to revert to the old system.

---

† See page 1153.

Dublin Sorting Office—Holiday Grievances.

MR. NANNETTI: I beg to ask the Postmaster-General if he received in February last a memorial signed by the great majority of the Dublin Sorting Office Staff protesting against the new system of annual leave, and asking that the system which obtained up to 1st January, 1903, be reverted to; if the Secretary, General Post Office, Dublin, had received in May last a further memorial signed by four elected representatives of the staff expressing dissatisfaction at the unusual delay and praying for an early reply; and whether, in view of the importance of the memorials and of the fact that no answer has as yet been given to either memorial, will the matter receive early attention.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: The memorial was received and was duly considered by me, but the question of the arrangements at a number of other offices was involved and reports had to be obtained from them. The matter was finally decided by me last week, and the memorialists have been answered.

Fiscal Inquiry—Duty on Food-Stuffs.

MR. BLACK: I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury, in view of the fact that the Government has now intimated to Germany that in certain events it will impose retaliatory or differential duties on importations into this country, whether the Government has determined that amongst these duties shall be a duty on food-stuffs, or whether it has determined that there shall be no such duty.

THE PRIME MINISTER AND FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Mr. A. J. BALFOUR, Manchester, E.): I have no information to give the hon. Gentleman on the subject of this Question.

MR. BLACK: Is the right hon. Gentleman still halting between two opinions?

[No answer was returned.]

The Government and the Licensing Question.

SIR WILFRID LAWSON (Cornwall, Camborne): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether it is his intention before the House rises to make a statement as to the intentions of the Government with regard to the licensing question; and, if so, whether he is able to inform the House when such statement will be made.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: Yes, sir, I shall probably have to say something on this subject before the close of the session, but I cannot give any pledge as to the date when the statement will be made.

Town Holdings Committee.

MR. FIELD: I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether he will consider the advisability of appointing a Town Holdings Committee to take up the subject of terminable leaseholds at the point where it was abandoned by the previous Town Holdings Committee, which sat some years since but did not issue a complete Report or series of recommendations.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I do not propose to suggest the appointment of a Committee on the subject to which the hon. Gentleman refers in his Question. I do not deny the importance of the Question. I have been inquiring into it, but I am not aware that there is anything upon which a Committee could be expected to throw much light.

MR. FLAVIN: This is a very important Question. Why not re appoint the Committee and let it complete the inquiry.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I do not deny the importance of the Question, but I am not aware that there is anything to inquire into.

National Memorial to Queen Victoria.

SIR J. FERGUSSON (Manchester, N.E.): May I ask what works are going on in front of Buckingham Palace?

MR. VICTOR CAVENDISH (Derbyshire, W.): The work now proceeding in front of Buckingham Palace is the first portion of what is required to prepare the site for the National Memorial to Queen Victoria, and includes the levelling and laying-out of the site, and the building of the necessary retaining wall in St. James's Park. All the above work will be carried out between now and 1st November. Plans of the entire scheme and of that portion which s now being carried out have been placed in the tea room.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES asked whether Parliament would be asked to assent to the works.

MR. VICTOR CAVENDISH: The work is being carried on by the Committee appointed for the purpose.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES: That is not the point. Will the assent of Parliament be asked for the works?

No answer was returned.

NEW BILLS.

PARLIAMENTARY AND ELECTORAL REFORM BILL.

"To amend the Law relating to Electoral qualifications, the registration of Voters, Parliamentary Elections, and to make provisions for the payment of Election expenses and of Members of Parliament, and the duration of Parliament," presented by Mr. Keir Hardie; supported by Sir William Allan, Mr. Shackleton, Mr. John Hope, and Dr. Macnamara; to be read a second time upon Thursday, and to be printed. [Bill 287.]

MORTGAGE OF PREMISES BILL.

"To amend the Law in regard to the Mortgaging of Premises containing trade machinery," presented by Sir William Holland; supported by Mr. Crombie and Mr. Parkes; to be read a second time upon Tuesday next, and to be printed. [Bill 288.]

BILLS OF EXCHANGE BILL.

"To provide for the registration of dishonoured Bills of Exchange and to allow summary judgment thereon," presented by Sir William Holland; supported by Mr. Crombie and Mr. Parkes; to be read a second time upon Tuesday next, and to be printed. [Bill 289.]

IRISH LAND BILL.

[THIRD READING.]

Order for Third Reading read.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now read the third time."

MR. JOHN REDMOND (Waterford): I regret very much the enforced absence of the right hon. Gentleman the Chief Secretary, who has devoted very great labour and a great deal of time to the consideration of this Irish land question and who has certainly brought to bear upon it a most sympathetic and conciliatory spirit. I do not believe it would have been possible to have brought this Bill to its present position were it not for the spirit he has shown, and I would have been glad if he could have been here to receive the congratulations which I think are his due for the ability and patience with which he has conducted this Bill through the House. The occasion on which we are met is a very important one. It is the passing of the last stage of this Bill in the House of Commons, and it is of such far reaching importance to the whole future of Ireland that I trust I may be forgiven if I say a few words on this Motion for the Third Reading of the measure. On the whole I think the occasion is one for congratulation to everybody concerned, but I feel that if we, upon these benches, remain absolutely silent at this stage it is possible that our attitude might be very much misunderstood and misinterpreted. One set of critics might be inclined to say that our silence was an indication of our complete and absolute satisfaction with the shape in which the Bill stands at this moment, and that we accepted full responsibility for everything that is in it and for the successful working of every part of it when passed into law. Another set of critics might possibly say that our silence was a most sinister silence and that it might be we were lying low till the Bill had passed, that we did not regard it as in itself a valuable Bill or one likely to conduce to the settlement of the Irish land question, and that we intended to go back to Ireland and do our best to revive agrarian agitation in that country, and thus refuse to give the Bill a fair trial. Both of these criticisms would have been absolutely untrue, and I think that under the circumstances it is perhaps wise that I should take this opportunity of saying a few words on behalf of my colleagues to explain clearly what our attitude is in regard to this Bill. In the first place I had better say at once that it is not our Bill. It is the Bill of the Government, and in the main the responsibility for it rests not upon us, but upon the Government.

Let me for a moment recall to the House the history of this Bill. At the beginning of this year, early in January, a conference of representatives of Irish landlords and Irish tenants came together in Dublin with the full approval, indeed I might almost say at the invitation of the Government, to consider whether it was possible to lay down a scheme for the settlement of the land question which would satisfy both sides to the struggle. I do not think I would be exaggerating if I were to say it would have been impossible to have introduced this Bill, or any such Bill, and to recommend it to public opinion in this country or to have passed it through this House, had it not been for the Conference. The Conference was based upon a spirit of concession and conciliation, and it adopted a Report which did not in either one direction or the other go to the full extent which the various parties desired. But after anxious consideration in Ireland, and after a discussion which lasted several weeks that Report received the approval and sanction practically of the whole of the people of Ireland. It received the sanction of what were regarded as the most irreconcilable sections of the Irish landlords, and it received the approval of every public board representing the people and of every representative of the tenants. But I must point out that the Report so put forward by that remarkable gathering was not accepted in its entirety by the Government, and while undoubtedly this Bill would never have seen the light of day, and never could have passed, were it not for the Conference, it is true that the Bill does not represent the Conference Report in some essential particulars, but overrides the recommendations of that Report. Therefore, I am justified in saying it is not our Bill, but yours, and the responsibility is not ours, but yours. Since the Bill was introduced into this House, the Irish Members have done their best to mould it into a shape in which they believed it would really go a long distance to settle the Irish land question. I believe that so far as we have been able to amend and enlarge the Bill the measure will prove successful, and in whatever particular it is found to disappoint the anticipations of its authors in its working in the future, it will be found that has been the result of the rejection of the advice given by the unanimous voice of the Irish Members in various parts of the House.

In speaking on the Second Reading of the Bill, I endeavoured to give, under certain heads, what I regarded as vital defects in the measure as it stood. There were questions affecting prices, the exclusion of large classes of tenants from the operations of the Bill, and amongst others certain classes of evicted tenants; the interference with existing rights of tenants under the Act of 1881, the perpetual rent-charge, matters of administration, the question of the congested districts and the labourers' question. On most of these questions we have succeeded in obtaining some remarkable concessions, and the value of those concessions is very largely enhanced by the fact that they were made to us with the full assent of the Unionist Members and of the representatives of the landlords; that they were concessions given to the unanimous voice of Ireland speaking on behalf of both landlords and tenants. On the question of price we succeeded in Committee in abolishing what is known as the minimum price. We have succeeded in securing that there shall be absolute freedom of bargain between landlords and tenants. We have, too, secured the inclusion in the Bill of a large class of tenants who, as the measure was originally framed, were excluded from its benefits, and so far as the evicted tenants question is concerned, I feel bound to say we have in substance obtained all that we asked for. The limit of £7,000, which applied to other tenants, now applies to the evicted tenants as well, and the new Estates Commission has under the Bill powers and money at its disposal to enable it to rebuild and restock evicted farms, as well as to buy out tenants at present in occupation for the purpose of reinstating the old tenants on their holdings. I say that these are enormous advantages to the whole class of evicted tenants in Ireland, and it is satisfactory to be able to think that these concessions were obtained with the assent of the representatives of the Irish landlords. I have the greatest and strongest possible belief that under the operation of this Bill practically every evicted tenant may be restored to his holding. That is of enormous importance to the whole future of Ireland, and it is most satisfactory to find that on this matter there is not any difference of opinion between the different sides of the House. We all recognise that if there is to be a settlement of this Irish land question, if there is to be agrarian and social peace in Ireland, these evicted tenants, who, otherwise must be centres of disaffection, should be restored to their homes. For my part, let me say that if there were nothing else in the Bill, if there were no other provisions, I would be slow indeed to take the responsibility of throwing any obstacle in the way of its passage so long as it contained a provision of this kind, which must tend in the direction of promoting the agrarian and social peace of the country. We have succeeded also in removing those provisions which deprived, under certain circumstances, certain classes of tenants of their existing rights under the Act of 1881. We have improved the tribunal appointed to carry out the work of administration under this Act, and the proceedings of that tribunal will be subject to investigation and discussion in this House, while the tenure by which two members of it hold office has been changed so that they will not be dismissable at pleasure, and will no longer be in the position of Removables at a moment's notice. Finally, we have succeeded in removing altogether the perpetual rent-charge, which was regarded almost universally in Ireland as a serious obstacle in the way of rapid purchase throughout the country. These are great and most valuable concessions, and, in my opinion, they make this a really great measure, and one which is eminently calculated to go a long way towards the settlement of the Irish land question over a large portion of Ireland.

On the other hand, on the question of the congested districts, and on the question of the labourers, unfortunately we were not able to induce the Government to take our advice. On the question of the congested districts it is well to remember, however, that the Bill, even in the form in which it now stands, is a most valuable measure, becauses it enlarges very materially the powers and funds at the disposal of the Congested Districts Board. Still, we do not believe that the Bill, as it stands, will be able to grapple successfully with the congested districts question. The constitution of the Board is such that we do not believe that it has any serious chance of being able to settle this question, and I am convinced that, in a comparatively short space of time, the Government will find that the advice we gave them as the result of our experience, and which for the moment they have rejected, must be accepted if this question is to be settled in the West of Ireland. I do not say we have not made a great gain on the question of the congested districts. I think the chief gain we have obtained is that we have discovered in the right hon. Gentleman the Chief Secretary that we have a man who is practically of our mind on this question, and from whom we are not divided by any question; and I am convinced that in the near future, when the right hon. Gentleman or his successor comes down to this House, as he undoubtedly will, to ask for further powers for dealing with the congested districts, what has happened will make it perfectly easy for him to obtain those additional powers with practical unanimity in this House. With reference to the labourers, we, on these Benches, are deeply disappointed that it was not possible to deal with that question. The difficulty in the way, after all, was only a difficulty of time, and we have reason to complain that this, which was the chief measure of the session, was not introduced earlier and not pushed on earlier. If that had been done, as I pressed on the Government, we would have had sufficient time to deal with this question. But we have, at any rate, the consolation of knowing, from the mouth of the Chief Secretary, that he does not pretend that the labourers' clauses in this Bill are a settlement of the labourers' question, and we have received from him a pledge, and a most valuable pledge, because it is one which not only binds him but must inevitably bind his successor, that this question will be dealt with in the next session of Parliament in a comprehensive and satisfactory way. While I sympathise most sincerely with the labourers in this postponement of the settlement of their claims, I think they have received substantial benefit from the discussion of this Bill, because they have a definite promise that their case will be dealt with in a full and satisfactory manner next year. On the whole, therefore, we feel that we have succeeded in the discussions of this Bill, as no Irish Party probably ever succeeded before, in radically altering for the better the measure as it was originally introduced. But, at the same time, we recognise that the Bill as it stands is marked by defects and omissions which make it necessary for us to emphasise the fact that, after all, the responsibility is not ours but rests with the Government; that the Bill is not ours, but that it is their Bill.

Let me ask, in what spirit will this Bill be received and worked in Ireland? I have heard and read many criticisms to the effect that the Bill ought not to be passed because it was not considered likely to effect a final settlement of the question. I do not conceive it possible to introduce a Bill of which, even though it were the compulsory Bill which many of us would have preferred, it could be said absolutely, "This is a final and complete settlement." My own firm belief is that, when this Bill passes, if it works as well as I hope it will, and as it is generally anticipated it will, it will not afford a complete and final settlement of the question. But I do believe that over a greater part of Ireland it will effect a settlement, and that when it is found by its working that further power and perhaps more money are required to settle the residuum of the question, the Minister of the day will not have the slightest difficulty, pointing as he will be able to do to the successful working of the Act as far as it has gone, in obtaining from this House whatever additional powers and money may be necessary to complete the settlement of the question, to extirpate landlordism and settle the Irish people universally on the soil as owners.

Speaking last April at Manchester the Chief Secretary, referring to this point, said—

> "The question was asked, 'Is this Bill a settlement of the question?' He believed the Irish people felt that the Bill was an honest attempt at settlement, and that they would be prepared to give it an honest trial."

I accept those words to the full. I believe that this Bill is an honest and sincere attempt to settle the question; it will be so regarded in Ireland, and it will be given a fair trial. The tenants and their leaders are only too anxious to find in this Bill a means of settling the land question and of promoting a permanent union between various classes in Ireland for the good of the country. They will, therefore, endeavour to work this Bill in an amicable, reasonable, and moderate spirit. Let hon. Members make no mistake about this matter. In my opinion the successful working of the Bill will depend more upon the landlords than upon the tenants. I would like to express my own individual appreciation of the attitude which the Irish landlords as a body have taken up on this question since the Land Conference. Of course there have been and are some unreasonable and irreconcileable landlords, but speaking of the Irish landlords as a whole, their attitude and spirit since the Conference has been reasonable and conciliatory. If that attitude is continued after the passage of the Bill, and the same spirit is carried into its working, in my belief the success of the measure is assured. So far as the tenants are concerned, the Bill will be worked in a reasonable, conciliatory, and moderate spirit, and the success of the Bill will depend absolutely on the landlords adopting a similar attitude. If landlords as a body do not attempt to wring extortionate prices from their tenants, if they consent to take for their land fair, honest, economic prices, I am convinced that land purchase will go on rapidly all over the country, and that the Bill will prove to be the beginning of the end of the Irish question. I say "the beginning of the end," because I think it my duty to repeat here at this stage of the Bill what I have said before, both in and out of this House—viz., that the settlement of the Irish land question will, in my opinion, remove the last remaining obstacle to the concession of those wider political and national rights without which Irishmen will never be contented.

This Bill now goes up to the House of Lords. The papers have been full recently of the most sinister rumours as to what is to happen in another place. I have not been much disturbed by those rumours. The compromise which has been arrived at after the discussion in Committee is one to which the Government and the country are in honour committed. More than that, it is a compromise to which the landlords are in honour committed. It was arrived at with the full agreement and consent of the gentlemen representing Irish landlords, and it is inconceivable to me that either the Government or the landlords in another place would consent to anything in the nature of a wrecking or mutilation of the Bill. It is well that it should be clearly understood that any such mutilation would mean the wrecking of the Bill, because if it be mutilated in the way suggested by some papers, even though it pass into law, it will be a dead letter, and its introduction, in my opinion, will prove to have been not a blessing but a curse to Ireland. But, as I have said, I am not disposed to pay any serious attention to these rumours. I prefer to regard the present as the last stage of the Bill in the House of Commons; and, as it is leaving the House in its amended shape, regarding it as I do as the first-fruits of the Land Conference, and as having been moulded into its present shape by Irish public opinion as expressed by the National Convention in Dublin, I say that it is a great measure, containing the elements of the settlement of the land question, which, if worked in a reasonable and honest spirit by landlord and tenant alike, will bring in its train blessings long denied of peace and prosperity to Ireland. It is in the earnest hope that our most sanguine expectations of this Bill may be realised that I support its Third Reading.

COLONEL SAUNDERSON (Armagh, N.): I am glad to have this opportunity of bearing my testimony to the great ability, eloquence, and good temper displayed by the Chief Secretary in carrying this Bill through the House. In past years I have been engaged in this House in what is called "making history." One frequently hears in the Lobby the remark, "We are making history to-night." Well, Sir, I believe we are making history to-day. But in former times when we have been making history it has been in a very different atmosphere. We have had thunder and lightning and even earthquakes. The atmosphere in connection with this Bill has been very different. In fact, during the discussions I have sometimes thought I was listening to a Scotch debate, so matter-of-fact, so business-like, and so devoid of the heat which usually characterises Irish debates have the discussions been. But the country will probably ask, "What are we to expect from the passage of this Bill?" I do not think we ought to expect too much, but I think we ought to expect a good deal. The British people may ask whether they are to expect to be repaid the great outlay they are making. We answer that question, not by expressing an opinion, but by pointing to past history, which affords a conclusive answer to those who have any fear as to the honesty of the Irish people. No one can deny that the way in which tenant farmers who have bought their farms under previous Acts have paid up to the day is really astonishing to the minds of thinking men: there have been practically no arrears. You are now about to enable a similar class to buy their farms—men of the same blood, and actuated by the same pre-eminently characteristic desire to own the land on which they live—and I say that past history ought to dissipate any fear which the British people may have as to the intention of the Irish people to pay up to the day.

What hope have we of the Bill succeeding? What danger lies in its path? The hon. and learned Member for Waterford has alluded to its passage through another place. I cannot speak for the Members of that other place, but I feel confident that no attempt will there be made to destroy any great principle in the Bill to which this House has given its adhesion. I cannot conceive that anybody would be so foolish. What will be the destiny of the Bill in Ireland? The hon. and learned Member for Waterford sees only one danger—the action of the landlords. He says that if the landlords are actuated by an avaricious desire to extort too much from the tenants—that is, not to deal with them on fair terms—the Bill will be a failure. But there is great difficulty sometimes in deciding what are fair terms. Are the tenants to decide that? Or is a committee appointed by the hon. and learned Member himself to decide what really are fair terms? I do not anticipate any difficulty on the landlords' side, and I am speaking as a landlord. I do not anticipate at all any danger of the Irish landlords trying to extort too much out of the tenants in bargaining for the sale of their farms. I think this is a great opportunity both for landlords and tenants, and the landlords are not so blind as not to see it in the light I see it. Nevertheless, it is essentially a tenants' Bill, brought in for the tenants and not for the landlords The Bill gives a fair opportunity to a landlord to sell his estate and at the same time to enable him to live in Ireland. That is what I have always claimed for the class to which I belong. I cannot see any danger at all from the landlords in their refusal to accept fair terms from the tenants, but I do see danger from the tenants. The danger that appears to me to be in front of the Bill lies in the fact that there is such a thing in Ireland as the Land Commission, which was created to fix fair rents, but which has since become an organisation to reduce rents, quite apart from the consideration whether they are fair or not. That is so, because agricultural produce has not fallen in Ireland since 1887. On the contrary, it has risen since then, but the reduction of rents has gone steadily on. The landlord knows perfectly well when the Land Commission send down in nineteen cases out of twenty they will view the land—I believe they taste it—and then, after conferring and thinking together, they will reduce the rent by at least 20 per cent., and very often more. I see great danger in the Irish tenants getting the idea into their heads that when they are asked whether they would like to buy their farms or not, it will be better to wait for a few years longer for the regular reductions of the Commissioners rather than buy their farms and become the tenants of the British Government, because, while the Bill will only give a reduction of 15 per cent., the Land Commission might give a reduction of from 20 to 30 per cent. I hope the hon. and learned Member for Waterford and his friends will do their best to make the Bill a success by not trying to drive the landlords to make impossible concessions in selling their land, but will persuade the tenants, over whom they undoubtedly have so much influence, to accept fair and reasonable terms. If the tenants will accept reasonable terms the Bill will run smoothly, but otherwise it will not.

Reference has been made by the hon. and learned Member for Waterford to Home Rule, but I believe that so far from promoting Home Rule the Bill will have the exactly opposite effect. I believe it will take out of the hands of the Irish political agitators a great lever which enabled them to hold out to the Irish people the not far distant prospect of getting their land for nothing. I hope that under the beneficent shadow of the Bill will arise not only peace but loyalty. I do not think you can buy the loyalty of the Irish people by any Land Bill, for that is a thing which you cannot buy. At the same time I think the passage of this Bill must prove and bring home to the quick-witted minds of the Irish people, that this country, far from being their enemy, is really their friend. To obtain the loyalty of the Irish people is after all the most valuable thing we can purchase. It is a matter of happy augury that the visit of the King to Ireland synchronises with the passage of this Bill in the House of Commons, and I believe that the King's way is the way to the hearts of the Irish people. If the Sovereign of these realms repeats his visit frequently there will be borne into the minds of the Irish people that the King, and the people, and the House of Commons, and Parliament are really desirous of being friends of Ireland. We are turning over to-day a new page in the history of Ireland. In former pages I regret to say there are many blots and stains which we all desire to wipe out and if possible to forget. In turning down this new page we hope the old pages will be obliterated from the memory of Ireland for ever, and that upon the new page will be inscribed the happiness, the peace, the prosperity and the loyalty o Ireland.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN (Stirling Burghs): The hon. and gallant Gentleman who has just sat down has said a good many things with which I cannot find it in my heart to agree, but he has said two things with which I most cordially agree—namely, at the end of his speech the aspirations he has expressed for the future peace and contentment and prosperity of Ireland, and at the commencement his warm recognition, in which I am sure we all join, of the manner in which the Chief Secretary conducted the proceedings connected with this Bill in this House. Reference has been made to the ability and the labour which the right hon. Gentleman has bestowed upon this Bill; but I think even more conspicuous than that is the conciliatory spirit and the elasticity and adaptability he has displayed, which are probably the highest qualities of a Minister in conducting a Bill of this character. The Chief Secretary might say with a great degree of truth "Alone I did it," so far as the Government is concerned. I have not observed, so far as I have been present, that he has ever had the support and encouragement of any Cabinet Minister on the front Ministerial Bench—at any rate, very rarely indeed. He has had the presence of the two law officers for Ireland, which is a somewhat unusual advantage for the representative of the Irish Government in this House, but they also have taken but a scanty part in the conduct of the Bill. The Chief Secretary has been supported also by the Solicitor-General for England, who by his languid presence has shown us what is meant by a minimum of support, and has exhibited an unpleasant uncertainty whether his silence was the silence of admiration or the silence of trepidation. [An HON. MEMBER: A golden silence.] To the Chief Secretary credit is due for the passage of this Bill and we congratulate him upon it. I repeat now what I have said before, that we ought to congratulate the Irish Members upon both sides upon the spirit they have displayed throughout these debates. As to the House itself, not an insignificant portion of hon. Members—I have spoken of them upon a previous occasion—have been in the state of mind of a shy horse being led up to an awkward-looking obstacle—somehow or other they have been led past the object which they regarded in that light, and they have wisely left the matter mainly in Irish hands. I was amused when I heard the hon. and gallant Gentleman who has just sat down, giving a somewhat belated philippic on Home Rule. Why, Sir, we have had St. Stephen's Green in the House of Commons. We have had an anticipation of the future, and I think the Irish Members on both sides have done much, by the way in which they have behaved, to lessen, at all events, the fears with which any considerable alteration in the mode of governing Ireland has been contemplated hitherto by some people in this country. When I said St. Stephen's Green I meant College Green.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND (Clare, E.): It isn't far off.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: The object of those who are not Irish Members has been mainly to protect Imperial interests, and Imperial interests are bound up in the contentment and prosperity of Ireland. We are all in the habit of saying when the occasion arises, that the greatest British interest is peace. The great British interest in Ireland is that the people in Ireland should be happy and prosperous, and it is because we have believed that this Bill offers a probability of some result of that sort that we have given it support, even when it appeared to be a risky and dangerous measure for the financial interests of our country. Our object has been to make conditions such as should secure a permanent settlement so far as the Bill operates, and punctual and regular fulfilment of the obligations incurred by the cultivating classes in Ireland. On the previous stages, therefore, I have been careful, for my part, to reserve my full right of action at this stage if we did not think that these conditions were fulfilled. But some changes have been made in the Bill, which I regard, at any rate, as material improvements from that point of view—above all, the removal of that limit which is the maximum or the minimum according as you regard it, and which evidently was calculated in some cases to impose hard terms upon the purchaser. Practically we have been nothing but onlookers in this matter, and although we are hopeful of the result, it would be perhaps too much to say that we are sanguine. How far will this measure sweep into the net of purchase all the estates of Ireland? It is quite clear that if you leave the two classes of estates still existing in many parts of the country you will always have unrest and discontent. How far, therefore, will those terms be accepted by the landlord and the tenant on their respective sides? I cannot but think that it would have been better, seeing that the bonus is the great inducement for landlords to enter into an arrangement, if there had been a period stated within which the idea of disposing of their property must be accepted by them. I do not mean a period within which the transaction must be completed, or even entered upon, but within which the willingness to deal should be recorded, because then this bonus would have been in fuller operation than it will be now. I am afraid there will still remain much land held under the old system, and that after all you will have to have some compulsory measure in order to complete the whole transaction, because without uniformity I do not see how there can be general or, at any rate, universal contentment. But so far as it goes we recognise that there has been a strenuous desire on the part of all those concerned to find an arrangement which would, at all events, over the greater part of Ireland bring about the desired result, and we earnestly hope that these expectations and hopes may not be deceived. Something has been said about the future of this Bill in another place. How will it fare when it reaches that other place? I do not myself anticipate much chance of material alteration in the Bill in the House of Lords. I cannot imagine that after the career this Bill has had through the House of Commons, where the Irish people and the Irish landlords are directly and constitutionally represented, an arrangement agreed to under such conditions and under such experiences can be materially set aside. There never has been a great Bill passed through Committee in this House in such a way and under such conditions. When we began the work of the Committee, through sheer force of habit I suppose, there were one or two divisions, but after that there were no divisions at all until a stormy spirit on the other side, roused to unusual feeling by some proposal likely to benefit Trinity College, Dublin, provoked a division.

MR. T. W. RUSSELL (Tyrone, S.): I think my right hon. friend is wrong. The stormy spirit was on that side.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: When I say a stormy spirit I naturally look towards him. But, at any rate, there have been almost no divisions in the course of the Bill, and the whole matter has been the subject, not of carelessness, not of indifference, on the part of those interested, but of the most careful scrutiny and the most earnest desire to compromise and to arrive at a satisfactory and equitable solution. In these circumstances I am not afraid of anything that may be done, but let the House bear in mind before we part with this Bill that, as my right hon. friend the Member for Montrose said of it, it is more than a great agricultural or agrarian reform, it is a social and a political revolution. There is no question that when this Bill is fully carried out it will change fundamentally the relations between the Imperial Government centred in this country and the cultivating classes in Ireland. It is a tremendous social and political change—a change I trust very much for the benefit both of Ireland and of the relations between the two countries. But we have only to live in hope—we can have no certainty—and it is with no more than a strong hope of the desired result being attained that we support the Third Reading of this Bill.

THE PRIME MINISTER AND FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Mr. A. J. BALFOUR, Manchester, E.): We have now heard upon this concluding stage of the great series of debates which have taken place on this Bill the leader of the Nationalist Party in Ireland, one of the most distinguished representatives of landlords in this House, and the leader of the Opposition. If I come after the trio, at all events I think I shall be able to imitate those who have preceded me in the debate in introducing no harsh note of discord, or indeed touching any note at all except that of warm congratulation to all those who have been concerned either in the framing, debating, or passing of this measure. On no point has there been any sharp difference of opinion expressed this afternoon, and on one point there has been absolute unanimity. That point is the skill, the tact, the eloquence, the judgment, and the knowledge displayed by my right hon. friend the Chief Secretary for Ireland, who ought now to be reaping the reward of his labours in hearing the congratulations passed upon him by such competent judges, and whose place owing to his enforced absence, I am unworthily filling. I noticed with interest that while there was no serious expression of difference of opinion on any point, there was a good deal of cross advice given—I mean advice from different parts of the House to different people outside the House, and it is very natural that it should be so. The leader of the Nationalist Party gave some very good advice to the House of Lords and the landlords, and my right hon. and gallant friend gave some very good advice to the tenants. [AN HON. MEMBER: And to the House of Lords.] Yes, there was a great deal of advice going round to everybody concerned. I hope and believe that in spirit that advice will be taken by all the parties to whom it was addressed, and I have very little doubt it will be so. For my own part I have been reproached indirectly by the right hon. Gentleman opposite for not having given the benefit of my presence and support to my colleague during the passage of the Bill through the House.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: I merely stated the fact.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: The fact is perfectly accurate. But I think it will be admitted by those who have watched my right hon. friend's work, that I would have paid a poor compliment to him or the House if I had indicated that my presence was necessary. If I have not been present during the debates in the Committee stage of this Bill those Members of the House who remember what has passed on previous occasions will easily believe me when I say that there is no subject of legislation with which this House could possibly occupy itself in which I feel greater interest than that affecting Ireland. This Bill advances—I had almost said made the last and final advance, but at all events, greatly advances—two of the causes which I have most at heart in relation to our Irish policy. I mean that it advances the question of land purchase, and advances the question of the Congested Districts Board. I have myself in days gone by occupied many hours of the time of this House recommending to its acceptance what I may call the parent measures which have now been brought to so admirable a conclusion by the joint labours of the tenants, the landlords, the Government, the House, and the Minister responsible for Irish affairs in this House. The Congested Districts Board, I believe, by this Bill will be yet further strengthened. It will be enabled to carry on that work which is peculiar to a portion of Ireland, and which nothing but special organisation could carry on in Ireland efficiently. And as to the policy of land purchase, as long as I remember anything in this House, I remember that I have been an earnest and not an unpractical advocate of that great scheme, and I have been an advocate of it not as a politician but as a social reformer. The hon. Gentleman who opened the debate this afternoon, and my right hon. and gallant friend have both from their own particular points of view given their judgment as to what effect this Bill will or will not have upon the great political controversy connected with the constitutional government of Ireland. I decline to look at the Bill from that point of view. Even if I were convinced that this Bill was a step in the direction of Home Rule, I should still think I was doing the very worst service to the great Unionist cause if I said it was bound up with the maintenance of a condition of things in Ireland which no man could look upon without the profoundest dissatisfaction. I do not think this Bill will help Home Rule in Ireland. I do not know that it will have any effect on it one way or the other, but I abstract my mind altogether from these considerations in dealing with this matter. The business we have to do is to remove the blots in our land legislation in Ireland—blots which are due to historical causes of great antiquity, but whose effect has gone on and very often been augmented by the very remedies we have tried to apply to them, until it reached, after the legislation of 1881, the point, as I think I have before said to the House, that put the Irish land system in the unenviable situation of being probably the worst land system in the world, and of combining the defects of every conceivable system within its own limits. That is a position which ought not to be tolerated: and I rejoice beyond measure to think that the day has at last come when very considerable efforts, but compared with this, the tentative measures which have already been passed on this matter, will find their final consummation in the great Bill which I hope will soon become an Act.

Of course our controversy remains. Of course it is true that after this Bill becomes law, and even if it has all the success which we hope and believe it will have, the great Irish controversy will remain. I do not doubt, I never have doubted, that one great alteration it will effect. The political controversy between hon. Gentlemen opposite and what I believe, at all events, is the great mass of the public opinion on this side of St. George's Channel, will no longer be embittered by those social wrongs which ought to be fought on fair terms, and which have made it, in some respects, and in some of its phases, discreditable, and in the highest degree, painful. I hope all that has now been brought to an end, and I trust that, henceforth, Irishmen fighting for what they believe, and honestly believe—namely, that a great constitutional change is desirable from the Irish point of view, will no longer be tempted into any other more dubious paths; at all events, that they will never be tempted to mix up two quite different controversies—the controversy as to whether you should or should not give Home Rule to Ireland, and the controversy as to whether you should or should not maintain a land system which was costly, which was unjust, which was complicated, which was financially burdensome, which was equally injurious to the tenants and the landlords, and the sooner it was swept away the better for all classes connected with agriculture in Ireland. That this may be the result of the present Bill is my most earnest hope; and I should be stultifying every action of my public life if I did not look forward with the most confident belief in its success, and if I did not again utter my conviction that the Irish tenants are to be trusted, absolutely trusted, not in obedience to any man or to any motive, to fulfil the obligations they have undertaken to the British Treasury: and if I did not express my great thanks to all those, to whatever Party they belong, whether they represent the tenants or whether they represent the landlords, who have shown a statesmanlike moderation which has enabled them to meet together on equal terms consulting for the common benefit, and which, almost for the first time in Irish history, has prompted these classes, so often foes, to agree upon some common policy by means of a compromise which, like all compromises, requires some sacrifices on either side. It may require some sacrifices both on the one side and on the other, but it is destined, I hope, to be rich in the fruits of contentment, peace and prosperity to all who lend themselves to this great work.

MR. DILLON (Mayo, E.): I can assure the hon. and gallant Member for North Armagh that he need not fear that we shall adopt any unreasonable attitude towards this Bill. I can assure him that in so far as the Members sitting on these Benches are concerned, this Bill would have absolutely fair play, and I trust that the landlords will approach the administration of the Bill, when it becomes an Act, in the same spirit. In my opinion, the great question whether this Bill will give substantial benefits to the Irish people, and prove so to be the beginning of agrarian peace in Ireland, depends almost entirely on the spirit and method in which it is administered. I desire to point out that the Government has, I think, wisely taken the whole question of administration, in the present instance, into their own hands, and that they, therefore, stand completely responsible for this great Department, and for the future fortunes of the Act. The Government, however, cannot be surprised if, in the breasts of many of us who have had long experience of the spirit in which Irish Acts have been administered, there exists a great deal of doubt and misgiving as to the future administration of this Act. That misgiving is all the stronger because no Land Act has ever been passed by the House of Commons which will depend more for its success on the method and spirit of its administration; for its characteristic is that it is elastic, and that so many of its provisions have been drawn somewhat vaguely, and with the desire to give the utmost scope to its administrators. I confess that my misgiving has been increased by the action of the Government in placing Mr. Wrench in the position of pre-eminence he still occupies, and by their action towards Mr. FitzGerald and Mr. Murrough O'Brien in the third portion of the Bill. But to come to the Bill as it stands. It must be admitted that it is immensely better than when it was introduced, and in that respect I share the view expressed by my hon. friend and Leader the Member for Waterford. But I still object, in the first clause, to the retention of the two limits of price, feeling as I do that it sets up a false standard, running a risk of causing friction, which would have been avoided had no such limit been mentioned in the Bill. The tenants of Ireland should have complete freedom to bargain with their landlords; and I believe that if the landlords approach this question in a spirit of reasonableness and conciliation there ought not to be any insuperable difficulty in arriving at a reasonable price. The hon. and gallant Member for North Armagh expressed the fear that the tenantry of Ireland might be induced to abstain from availing themselves of the benefits of the Act by looking forward to successive reductions for the next fifteen years. But I believe that such dangers are entirely visionary. The anxiety of the tenantry of Ireland is so great to obtain proprietary rights in their land, and to lift from their shoulders the intolerable burden of landlordism and all its concomitant evils, that the risk is rather in the other direction, and that they will grasp their immediate advantage without consideration of their ability to meet their obligations in the future. I am sure that the landlords, on that score, have nothing to fear. If they approach this great question of price in a rational and fair spirit, then I believe that this Bill will work smoothly, so far as the general sale of land is concerned, and will also work rapidly. If the landlords of Ireland are sufficiently unreasonable to take it into their heads that on the occasion of their receiving a bonus of £12,000,000 in order to facilitate the sale of their lands, this was a suitable occasion for making a general, all-round rise in the price of the land, then, of course, friction and fresh agitation will arise.

There are a few of the provisions of the Bill on which I wish to say a word or two. First of all, in regard to the reinstatement of the evicted tenants. That provision has been made immensely better in the course of the passage of the Bill through Committee; yet I confess that I view with alarm the tone adopted by some of the landlords' representatives, inside and outside the House. I go so far as to say that if we could be certain that the Bill would be administered in the spirit of the speeches of the right hon. the Chief Secretary, during the Committee and Report stages, I do believe that it would be possible to reinstate the evicted tenants. But that depends upon the action of the Commission, on the spirit of the administration, and mainly on the spirit in which the subject is approached by the Irish landlords. I say that the Irish landlords will consult their own selfish interest by seeing that the tenants are treated in the most generous manner. Then, as regards the provisions for the resettlement of the West of Ireland, I deeply regret that the Government could not have seen their way to meet us fully in the demand we made on this particular point. It was really, practically speaking, a non-contentious point. None of the proposals we put forward threatened to inflict any loss on the landlord party, and this particular portion of the Irish land question was precisely that portion which appealed most strongly to the British public, and was most efficacious in securing the support of the Chancellor of the Exchequer. And it appeared to us that Article 14 of the Land Conference Report did undoubtedly suggest or imply a provision such as we endeavoured to insert in the Bill in Committee. That Article says—

> "That counties wholly or partly under the operations of the Congested Districts Board, or other districts of a similar character (as defined by the Congested Districts Board Acts and by Section 4, Clause 1, of Mr. Wyndham's Land Purchase Amendment Bill of last session) will require separate and exceptional treatment with a view to the better distribution of

the population and of the land, as well as for the acceleration and extension of these projects for migration and enlargement of holdings which the Congested Districts Board, as at present constituted, and with its limited powers, has hitherto found it impossible to carry out upon an adequate scale."

There is really little or nothing in the Bill which will affect the constitution of the Board. No doubt, I recognise that large additions have been made to the financial resources of the Board, and that in some important minor particulars, its powers have been extended; but as regards its larger powers and its constitution, none of our proposals have been accepted, and nothing substantial has been done in the Bill. That I must say is a matter for very great regret. It is a matter which, even if all our Amendments had been accepted, would not have affected to the extent of one single pound the income or means of any landlord in Ireland. There was one thing in which I was disappointed in the course of the Committee stage of the Bill. That stage was marked by a great deal of general agreement on many points; but when we arrived at this particular portion of the Bill, not one landlord supported our demand; and there was an appearance of indifference on this all-important question on the landlord side. We, first of all, asked for compulsion, and I confess that to my mind and to the minds of many men in Ireland, Article 14 of the Land Conference appeared to point to compulsion in those particular districts. That Amendment was rejected by the Government, although it was admitted that we had adopted a moderate tone throughout. When we were beaten on compulsion, we fell back on pre-emption; and I think the Government were very ill-advised in refusing pre-emption for the settlement of these particular districts. Here again much can be done, even under the Bill as it stands, if it is administered in a spirit of earnestness and vigour. If it is not; and if the old spirit which prevailed in the administration of previous Acts gets the upper hand, then I fear this portion of the Bill will be a nullity altogether. I think it is a great pity that the Government had not sufficient courage in connection with this particular part of the Bill. I fail to see where the opposition came from to prevent this part of the Bill being made complete and efficacious.

I wish to say one or two words on the finance of the Bill. All our discussions are now over; my views have not been accepted; still I hold those views exceedingly strongly; and now, on the Third Reading, I must repeat them. I think one of the great drawbacks in this Bill—and I think it will be found out before the Bill has been long working—is the great reduction in the sinking fund and the consequent abolition of the decadal reductions. That was a point on which the Land Conference was agreed. If the decadal reductions were to be retained, it was manifest that you must retain a sufficient sinking fund which should never have been allowed to fall below 1 per cent. The stock should have been issued at 2½ per cent., and the annuity at 3½ per cent., and then it would have been possible to preserve the system of decadal reductions; or, if the tenant elected to refuse the decadal reductions, the whole of the loan would have been paid off in about forty-nine years. That would be infinitely safer for the State, and far better for the tenant. I fear that that provision in the Bill is a very great evil which will prove injurious to the tenant and to the whole stability of the finance of the Bill. I have heard recently of certain individuals, some of them hon. Members of this House, talking in Ireland about the great period of prosperity which is before the country; and that people had better hurry up and buy their land before the great scheme of the Colonial Secretary gives such an impetus to agriculture as will greatly increase the land value. I wish to utter a word of warning to the Government and to the Irish agriculturists. In my opinion, even assuming the Colonel Secretary carries his scheme, no taxation of food that the inhabitants of this country will ever tolerate will bring any advantage to the people of Ireland. A tax on corn of 3s. or 4s. a quarter would injure Ireland. No tax, except an all-round tax—a tax on meat, a tax on mutton, a tax on butter—would increase the value of Irish land. But does any rational human being for one moment suppose that such a tax is possible in the future. Therefore, any man who is building Castles in Spain as regards Irish agriculture, on the basis of the proposed scheme for preferential duties and the success of the Colonial Secretary, is to my mind building on an absolutely shadowy foundation, even if the Colonial Secretary carries all his programme. I think it is a most serious matter—and that is the reason I refer to it now—that this wise, and from the point of view of the taxpayer, most valuable provision, of a reduction at the end of the first ten years of 14 per cent. and a further reduction of another 14 per cent. at the end of another ten years, should be swept away. There is another consideration also. By the introduction of this new set of purchasers who are to pay for a period of seventy years the same annuities without any reduction whatever, you will have again the old argument of the one side of the hedge and the other side of the hedge, which must produce a great deal of discontent, particularly when the old Ashbourne purchasers will have got two reductions, and when the new purchasers see before them a period of sixty-eight years without any reduction at all.

A great deal has been said about the bonus in this country; and it has been repeated in the Press; but most of what has been said has been really based on ignorance of the whole philosophy and genesis of the bonus. I saw, I think in the *Daily News* the other day, that 12,000,000 English sovereigns were to be handed over to the Irish landlords to sweeten this transaction. That is not true. The essence of the bonus is this; that whereas previously the Government was spending £750,000 a year in maintaining war between landlords and tenants in Ireland—money which was absolutely wasted—they now proposed to devote £390,000 a year of that money, for a limited period, to the purpose of bringing about peace. For my part, I sincerely regret that they have not devoted £500,000 per annum to the bonus, because that would enable the process to develop much more rapidly; and the Imperial taxpayer would not lose sixpence more by the transaction. That would enable the work to proceed much more rapidly and would avoid the risk which now exists of friction over the question of price. As to the distribution of the bonus, I think the percentage has been cut down to too low a figure. After allowing for estates in the Land Judges' Courts and for estates that will not be sold—I am afraid there are certain gentlemen in Ireland who will not sell—I believe that the £12,000,000 would have been amply sufficient to give 15 per cent. all round. It would be better to give 15 per cent. all round, or, at all events, to those who sold promptly, rather than to create the impression that those who hang back may get a better bonus, as there is a provision in the Bill to revise it. The proper policy would be to give the best bonus to those who come in first. Therefore, in that respect, the bonus is wrongly distributed. But it has been wrongly distributed in another respect also, which I think is even more important. Take a landlord with an estate worth £5,000 a year in Ulster or Leinster. He gets twenty years' purchase, which may be held to be a fair average price for good estates in these provinces. He receives £100,000 from the tenants, and £12,000 as a bonus. Take another estate in Connaught with a rental of £5,000 a year. That is sold at fifteen years' purchase, which is a fair average price as prices go at present. The landlord gets £75,000 from the tenants, but only £9,000 as a bonus. That is to say, that the man who sells an estate with a rental of £5,000 for £100,000 gets £12,000 as a bonus, whereas a man who sells an estate, also with a rental of £5,000, for £75,000, only gets £9,000. In other words, the landlord of the poor estate who has to sell it cheaper gets less than the richer landlord. That is an unreasonable position; and one which, for my part, I cannot believe will work. The Bill is now practically safe. I conclude it will not run any serious risk in another place. It leaves this House with the goodwill of the Irish Party; and with a pledge from us that we will give it fair play, with an honest desire, according to our lights, to make it work. Although I do not want to say anything harsh or unpleasant of the Chief Secretary, and in common with other speakers who have addressed the House I feel that in the conduct of this Bill through the House he has displayed an admirable knowledge on the subject, a great deal of sympathy, and splendid

Parliamentary gifts, still, I cannot but express my conviction that for whatever benefits the Irish people may obtain from it, they will have primarily and chiefly to thank the men who, during the last two years have faced coercion cheerfully, have endured imprisonment, and the deprivation of civil rights, and who have by their sacrifices brought about a situation which in the first place rendered it necessary to introduce such a Bill, and in the second place, made it possible for such a large measure to be passed.

*MR. T. W. RUSSELL We are not merely passing the Third Reading of the Irish Land Bill to-day, we are also effecting a great revolution, we are practically undoing the English conquest of Ireland, so far as the conquest rested on the maintenance and establishment of Irish landlords. That is what the House of Commons is doing by reading this Bill a third time to-day. This Parliament is not yet three years old, the General Election was in 1900. We had the election without any promise of a Land Bill; without the slightest reference to the land question; we had, in fact, a *non possumus* attitude on the part of the Government. Immediately after the election we had a bitter cry from the West of Ireland, where trouble always breaks out first, and where it is most soon felt. Then we had the uprising of Ulster. Following that we had the Bill of the session of 1902; a Bill which failed absolutely to meet the case, and which was withdrawn and buried. Then followed a proclamation of one quarter of the Irish counties under the Coercion Acts, resulting in the imprisonment of a score of Irish representatives. No doubt they broke the law, but they were imprisoned because, in the language of the Prime Minister, the conduct of the landlords was so infamous that it could not be tolerated any longer. Then came a great calm, and the Land Conference, and then this Bill, by the passing of which, after it has been two months before the House, we are enacting a great and bloodless revolution. During the eighteen years that I have been in this House, I have heard a good deal about the men who live by agitation, I have been called an agitator myself, but I do not think there is one person who has been engaged in agitating on this land question who will not be glad to be rid of it. It is only right in these circumstances that we should endeavour to set ourselves right with the English Members of this House with regard to the future. Prophecy is not profitable at any time, and I am not going to prophesy now as to what will happen under this Bill. I wish only to point out certain things that cannot possibly make for a final settlement of the land question under this Bill.

We commenced our agitation in this House with a demand for compulsion two years ago. We believe compulsion will be necessary, we did not think or say that compulsion would be required all over the country, but we do maintain that no matter what this House may do, a certain number of landlords will not sell, and compulsion is necessary for them. There are landlords in Ireland who will not sell under any circumstances, and even now the landlord organs in Ireland, the *Irish Times* and the *Daily Express*, are urging and inciting the House of Lords to alter this Bill, and are saying that if it is not altered no sales will take place under it when it becomes an Act. I state this to make it clear in future that this cannot be a final settlement. The Government would not accept our policy of compulsion, and if I had left unsaid what I have just said the House would be deceived. Something like £20,000,000 of landed property is at present in the Land Court, as to which we have the Prime Minister's word that it is the worst of the landlords' systems that can exist, yet we have not adequately dealt with the Land Court in this Bill. There might have been a great deal done in the Bill to force the Land Judge to sell, and to break down the wall of hundreds of receivers by whom he is surrounded who are only too content to see things as they are. We have also to face the administration of this Bill when it becomes an Act. There is not a man in this House who does not know and feel that the Land Act of 1881, if it had received fair play at the hands of the Courts of Ireland, would have long ago settled the land question. If this Bill when it becomes an Act is to be interpreted by the speeches the right hon. Gentleman the Chief Secretary made upon it, then it will be all right; but it is not. It is to be interpreted by Irish Judges, and those who have to administer the Act. I agree that so far as the Estates Commission is concerned that is a great improvement on the past, but let us remember that this Act will go through the Courts of Ireland, where there is very little sympathy with it. I agree with reference to the financial part with the hon. Member for East Mayo. The abolition of the decadal system was rendered absolutely necessary by the smallness of the sinking fund. A Bill of this kind cannot be passed without amending Bills being brought in in the future, and I believe the finance portion of the Act will break down and have to be amended by future Bills. I do not believe the general taxpayer has anything to fear from this measure. The tenants who are allowed to purchase their holdings will struggle hard to meet their obligations, whatever they may be, and the poorest among them will struggle the hardest. The general taxpayer will be paid to the uttermost farthing, and so far as the bonus which they believe they are going to pay is concerned, that is coming out of an Irish fund, and the Treasury will take care that they receive repayment in full. I take leave of this Bill by saying that it is the greatest measure passed for Ireland since the Act of Union.

MR. WILLIAM O'BRIEN (Cork): The Chief Secretary is making a fortunate exception to the old maxim that the absent are always in the wrong. Whatever else this Bill may do, it has already accomplished one thing beyond yea or nay—viz., it has established the Chief Secretary's Parliamentary reputation to a degree which certainly his late opponents on these benches will not grudgingly acknowledge. If only the other expectations of the Bill are as happily realised, the measure will have succeeded in accomplishing perhaps the most revolutionary change that has ever taken place in the relations between the two countries. Whether the Bill will effect that revolution I cannot undertake to prophesy, but there is certainly no ground that I can see for any prophesy of evil. The success of the Bill will depend in the main upon two things of which we are not the masters. The first is the moderation and good sense with which the landlords will, I hope, lay down a business-like basis for purchase, regardless of the obstruction of the land agents, and of some of the absurd and impossible prices that were originally contemplated in Clause 1 of the Bill. The second point upon which the success of the Bill will depend—as is the case with nearly everything in Ireland—is the administration of the measure, upon whether it is worked out in the spirit of broad and liberal conciliation in which this whole settlement has been conceived. One thing it may be said with certainty will not be missing, and that is the most thorough-going friendliness, and fair play, and goodwill on the part of the masses of the Irish people, and a determination not to indulge in any mere petulance or rancour upon small points, so long as the landlords and the Estate Commissioners honestly do their part in working out the great scheme of conciliation which within the last six months has transformed the face of Ireland.

There are two or three points in particular upon which the successful working of the Bill will depend. The first is that the new purchasers' annuities should be such as they can cheerfully look forward to with an eye on the future. That was a cardinal principle in the settlement suggested by the Land Conference. The second point is that the ample powers vested in the Estates Commissioners for the complete and generous settlement of the evicted tenants question should be exercised in the spirit of the Chief Secretary's repeated and transparently sincere declarations that it is his desire to see all the bitterness and the evil memories connected with this question completely eradicated. The third point is that, however imperfect the constitution and the powers of the Congested Districts Board still are, the Board should take the series of hints given by the Chief Secretary, turn over a new leaf, and exercise for all they are worth the enlarged powers given by this Bill, with a view, not to carrying on tinkering operations, but to transferring the people rapidly and in large numbers to the land, in which all their hopes are centred. I should perhaps add another point which is an indispensable condition of success—viz., that the Chief Secretary should not forget his promise to the labourers; and that in framing, during the autumn, his settlement of the labourers question, he should make up his mind that the real remedy lies not in any mere paltry tinkering Amendment of the existing Labourers Acts, but in giving the labouring population in the South and in the East the very same treatment as you have undertaken towards their brother migrating labourers in the West. None of these things I have named will involve any hardship upon the landlords or the Treasury, but it is the spirit that will be shown in matters of this kind in the administration of the Bill, that will, more than any statutory enactments, go to decide whether the present process of appeasement and conciliation is to go to a length that twelve months ago would have been beyond belief. I quite agree with the warning of the right hon. and gallant Gentleman the Member for North Armagh, that the House must not expect too much. The hon. and learned Member for Waterford truly reminded the House that this Bill is not our Bill. It is not the Bill of the Land Conference.

I do not care to go back upon these matters over much, but perhaps some of us may be excused for remembering that the three weakest points in this Bill are the points in which it departs farthest from the recommendations of the Land Conference. The first of these points is that the Bill fails to provide the two years' additional bonus which represents exactly, as I believe, the difference as to price between the landlords and tenants, and which would have obviated, practically speaking whatever difficulty or friction there may now be experienced in settling the exact basis of purchase. We on these benches remember gratefully that that addition to the bonus or Purchase-aid-fund was suggested as a wise policy by the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Montrose, and the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Berwick, and indeed by all the Members who have a special right to call themselves the party of retrenchment and of economy. The second weak point in this Bill, as I regard it, is one of which the hon. Member for Mayo reminded the House, namely, that the Bill fails to provide the new purchasers with those three ten-year reductions which the Land Conference recommended and which would relieve the new purchasers of any substantial anxiety as to the future. The third weak point is the failure of the Bill to fix a time limit, as suggested in the Conference Report. But all this is to a great extent a question of spilt milk, and I do not wish to go back upon it. I make every allowance for the difficulties with which the Chief Secretary has had to contend; I mention these matters simply to show that it is through no fault of ours that the Bill is to some extent marred by these defects, and that the inexplicable troubles of the Chief Secretary have driven him to reject various other Amendments upon which the opinion of landlords and tenants was absolutely united. I wholly agree that, whatever may be its shortcomings, the Bill as it stands is a great Bill, and is capable of producing better and wider results than any Act ever passed by the English Parliament for Ireland. That much may be said with certainty, but the House will not expect us to forget that the secret of its success, so far as it is a success, is that the Bill was really created and discussed in, not an English, but an Irish Parliament. The time has not come for pressing this Parliament to go the one further easy step of transferring the Irish Parliament from Westminster to College Green. I am aware that the right hon. and gallant Gentleman opposite and his friends have a different view as to the future, and I find no fault whatever with the references of the Prime Minister to that point this afternoon.

This much, I think, is perfectly certain—that it will be the fault of English statesmen, and not of the Irish people, if the future of the Irish cause does not develop itself upon those lines of conciliation and peace of which I hope this Bill is only the starting point. From the outset the Irish people, through their National Convention, have regarded the Bill in a friendly spirit. They trusted my hon. and learned friend and his Party with unlimited authority to work for its Amendment, not with any sinister or hostile design, but with the honest intention of making its peace-bearing operations as widespread and permanent as possible. I am sometimes amused to see how Englishmen and English newspapers marvel at the moderate and reasonable spirit now prevailing upon the Irish Benches. They are sometimes apparently a little alarmed to know what it is all about, and it never seems once to strike them that it is in themselves and not in us that the change has come about. I know of nothing that ought to give Englishmen more pause as to their capacity of governing us. There is this indisputable fact, that there never was a moment in all this long and bitter struggle when you might not have had peace, and exactly the same peace, upon the same terms as far as the representatives of Ireland were concerned, and you might have spared yourselves and us twenty years of misery and agitation. It is now eighteen years since, under the inspiration of our own great leader of those days, I gave frank and loyal assistance to the Liberal Party in Mr. Gladstone's great and never-to-be-forgotten effort to bring about reconciliation in Ireland. I did so in exactly the same spirit eighteen years ago as I experience now. Nothing can deter me now from giving an equally loyal assistance to the present Government in their project for the abolition of landlordism. I think that is the spirit of ninety-nine out of every hundred men in Ireland, and this is more especially so among the men who have fought you hardest, and they did so because they had nothing to do but to fight. If this Bill is only administered in a proper spirit, and if the landlords display that wisdom which is necessary in their own interests, and which they have displayed at more than one trying moment when this Bill hung, as it were, by a thread, I am sure no one will grudge the Government the triumphs which I hope will await their policy, and the measure with which their names will be associated.

MR. SAMUEL YOUNG (Cavan, E.): As the oldest Member in the representation of Ireland, may I be permitted to express the pleasure I feel in seeing a Land Bill so vital to the well-being of the country pass its Third Reading. I remember agricultural Ireland for long years in a deplorable condition, without a ray of hope until 1870 and 1881, when Mr. Gladstone took pity on the country, and gave to the farmers a local habitation and a name; for, until that time, they were no more than chattels in the possession of the owners of the soil, many of whom, I acknowledge, were very good considering the power of decimation which was in their hands. Now, after years of resistance to the claims of the people of the country, and after expedients and abortive Land Acts, which were only the patching up of torn garments, there has been a mysteriously favourable change of attitude towards Ireland—a manifest confidence in the people which time will prove to be well-placed. In the maturing of this measure, negotiations have fallen into good hands, not only at the Dublin Conference, but particularly so when they fell into the hands of the Chief Secretary for Ireland representing the Government, whose tact, temper, eloquence, and ability in the conduct of this Bill will not be forgotten by a grateful people. I could not have imagined in my youth that a peasant proprietary would have come in my day. It has come. The Bill will produce a marvellous change in the condition of the people when it comes into operation. It will form an era in the history of the country. May I further venture to say that after this final Land Bill, which is real legislation, it will only require one or two similar bold steps to be taken by the Government to make Ireland a strength to the Empire, and her people loyal and contented.

*MR. CLAUDE LOWTHER (Cumberland, Eskdale): I do not rise with the object of introducing any discord into this splendid message of peace, but rather that in the future, when the seeds planted to-day have developed, when they have covered Ireland with a perennial growth of national contentment, I should like to remember that it was my privilege as an English Member to congratulate the Chief Secretary on what I consider to be the greatest achievement of any Statesman in the history of Ireland. We have heard this afternoon a general interchange of compliments and congratulations. The right hon. Gentleman the Leader of the Opposition congratulated his colleagues upon the very conciliatory way in which this Bill has been received. The hon. and learned Member for Waterford congratulated himself upon his dexterous pruning, cutting, and general readjustment of the measure. Some hon. Members on this side of the House congratulated the Chief Secretary on his dexterous piloting of the Bill through this House. But what of the Bill itself? Personally I agree with the Member for South Tyrone that this Bill is a revolution effected without revolutionary methods. I welcome it for two reasons; first of all, because I feel sure that it will bring permanent rest to Ireland from the acute political controversy in which she has been plunged for centuries; and also because at this moment, when the attention of the country is drawn into other channels, and when another great policy is before us, it conclusively proves that in spite of the ominous predictions of sceptics and the tremblings of mediocrity—it is possible to sweep away difficulties, which at the beginning appeared insuperable, by the exercise of genius and courage. Beyond the shadow of the Land Act there looms a period of great agricultural prosperity, drawing in its train that national stability so vital to national credit. National credit to Ireland means a steady flow of capital into the country—the revival of latent and the creation of new industries; it means the development of her great fisheries and the improvement of her navigable rivers; it means the employment of a greater number of the population on its own soil, and consequently the diminution of that unhappy exodus which all who have the interests of Ireland at heart have for years and years deplored. These are only some of the blessings that will accrue from this measure which the Chief Secretary has presented to the Irish people. This Bill means also a great deal to England. I hope that the intellectual atmosphere of this country, now that better fellowship exists, will be permeated by that wit and brilliance which is inherent to the Irish people. And I am confident that England will find a lasting joy in the nearer union to the Island that she loves.

*MR. TOMKINSON (Cheshire, Crewe): For more than twenty years I have taken a deep interest in Irish affairs and in all measures brought forward for the better government of Ireland. In a former debate my hon. friend the Member for the Scotland Division said the speech of the Prime Minister marked an epoch in Irish history, inasmuch as it rung the deathknell of the old Irish land system, condemning it as being hopelessly and incurably bad. I quite agree with the hon. Member, but think that the speech of the Prime Minister marked an even greater epoch than that to which he alluded, because it seemed to me that there was almost for the first time on the part of the great Party sitting on these benches and its leader, a spirit of sympathy and conciliation shown towards Ireland, a disposition to approach Irish subjects from the Irish point of view, and to avail themselves of the experience of the representatives of Ireland in the solution of Irish problems. If it was a novel, it was also a pleasing experience to see hon. Members on that side of the House, one after another, rising to pay a handsome and willing tribute to the honesty and integrity of the Irish tenant, and to the punctuality with which he has fulfilled his engagements, and to the entire safety and security with which British and Irish money might be lent to them for the purchase of their farms. All I can say with regard to that is, *Esto perpetua!* We who sit on these benches rejoice in the fact that in this change we see the practical endorsement of many of the principles we have advocated for many years. Speaking as the representative of an English constituency, I should like to allude for a moment to the speech delivered some time ago by the hon. and learned Member for the Launceston Division. He said if this Bill were to be submitted to the English taxpayers they would not consent to the proposals it contains. I should reply that it woud depend on the manner in which it was placed before them. I have had an opportunity of fairly explaining to my constituents the peculiar circumstances that surround the question and the absolute need of some great measure. It is quite true that it might be represented to them quite truthfully in such a way that they would not readily accept it. The case of a second term rental tenant paying £10 a year rent, and by this Bill be enabled to purchase his holding by an annual payment of some £7 only in sixty-eight years, while his landlord will still receive as much as his former income from him, sounds like something in "Alice in Wonderland"—with a fairy godmother intervening.

Yet there are many reasons why I am quite satisfied that the arrangement proposed by the Bill is a fair one, and that it is very well worth while to carry it out. In the first place I consider that the previous Acts in this direction make the situation altogether impossible. You could not have the Dillon estate and the De Freyne estate side by side with any hope of tranquillity in Ireland. I rejoice to hear so many tributes in this House to the memory of the great statesman who brought forward the Act of 1881. The failure of that Act was due only to its want of finality. The readjustment and revision of rents coming round periodically naturally made it the interest of the tenants not to improve but to depreciate their holdings. That was one of the flaws which made dual ownership come to an absolute breakdown. Over and above that we look forward to the probability that there will be immense savings of expenditure in Ireland. We must also remember that Ireland has been subjected to considerable over-taxation. We have last, but not least, of the many reasons that could be given in favour of tenant proprietorship the extremely happy experience of the results of land purchase, as regards industry, thrift, and cleanliness which have supervened on the Dillon estate. These are the chief reasons which justify a great effort for a final settlement, which, if successful, will be well worth the cost. In my opinion the risk to the taxpayer is absolutely *nil*. In the first place there is the well-known honesty of the Irish tenants. No man would endanger such a splendid arrangement as is now proposed by any attempt, even if he were capable of it, to repudiate his obligations. But over and above that I maintain that, as a business transaction it is absolutely sound, for the margin of security is ample to protect the advance which is to be made by the British Treasury. It is nothing like the whole of the purchase money, which is based on a reduced rental, but only to buy out the landlord's interest. Practically the advance will be little more than one-third of the total value of the holding, and therefore there will be a far more ample margin left than is asked on mortgages on such transactions in England. There is one point on which the British taxpayer is entitled to gratitude, and on which some sacrifice is being made, and that is the fact that it is obviously impossible to exploit the credit of the nation in such large sums as will be required for this scheme, coming on the top of the heavy obligations incurred for the carrying on of the late war, and lately the Transvaal loan, without permanently, or for a long time, depreciating British credit and keeping down the price of Consols. The national credit is a great element in the national strength and stability of a nation, and the nation that can raise most money at the lowest rate is the strongest nation in the end. We have to face the fact that there has been in the last six or seven years a fall in Consols of 20 per cent. If hon. Members will look back to the time when Consols reached the highest point, namely, 114, they will find that 2½ per cent. Consols were 110. They have been down to 90, and they are only about 92 at the present moment. I consider this a very serious depreciation, and I hope hon. Members from Ireland will recognise that the taxpayer is making some sacrifice. I hope also they will bear a kindly and benevolent feeling towards Liberal Members for the absence of opposition to this Bill, from which they expect Ireland to derive such good results. I hope that the evil order has passed away, that all things will become new, and that the great source of strife and division will be removed. That poverty will disappear never to return such as Carlyle wrote of when he compared the condition of the Irish sans potato as he called him, with that of the *sans-culotte* before the French Revolution, stating that in his opinion the latter was not the most miserable but only the second miserablest of men. I hope that state of things will pass away with the wise application of the powers for the enlargement of holdings, and the migration, where necessary, of the people within their own country. There is one aspect of this question that has never been noticed in this House, but which it is obvious is not for the true interest of this country, and that is that in allowing the expatriation of the Irish people we have been destroying one of the finest recruiting grounds for our Army. There is no need to extol the services of the Irish regiments, for since the time of Marlborough down to Pieter's Hill and Ladysmith Hill they have been distinguished for their deeds of valour. I hope this Bill will be passed without a dissentient voice.

*MR. LAMBERT (Devonshire, South Molton): I regret to have to introduce a jarring note in the chorus of approval that up to now has beslavered this Bill. But after all, as the hon. Member for South Tyrone has said, I was waiting to hear what the British taxpayer was going to get out of it. He is going to incur a serious responsibility of Irish land ownership, in a most one-sided manner for sixty-nine-and-a-half years. If the Irish land goes up in value the Imperial taxpayer will get nothing of it. no addition can be made to the tenants, rent instalments; and if it goes down in value he will have to bear the burden of the loss. I think that when we are to pay £12,000,000 in order to have the privilege of allowing the tenants of Ireland to pay their landlords an exorbitant price for their farms, some voice should be lifted up on behalf of the long-suffering British taxpayer. This Bill brings into immediate individual contact 400,000 tenants of Ireland with what they regard as a foreign Government. Mr. Gladstone denounced this individual contact in 1886. Personally, I would have wished to bring in some Irish authority between the tenants of Ireland and the Imperial Government. What responsibility rests on the Imperial Government? They will have to collect rents from 130,000 tenants whose farms are under £4 value. I ask, suppose you have a time of agricultural depression what rent you can possibly screw out of these poor people? Then you have 275,000 tenants whose farms are under £10 value. Again, I say, if you have a period of agricultural distress —a period of unusual foreign competition—everybody knows it is impossible to collect their rents, that you cannot evict a whole country side, and that the Imperial Government will have to bear the loss. It seems to me inexplicable that the Irish tenants are such models of probity when they come to pay what they regard as a foreign Government, but are so impregnated with a double dose of original sin when they come to deal with fellow Irishmen in Ireland that they can be entrusted to pay £5,000,000 in instalments every year to the British Government, but that they cannot be trusted to do justice to Irishmen amongst whom they live! The First Lord of the Treasury said that the Irish tenants could be trusted to pay the British Government, but that they could not be trusted to govern themselves! We have heard very different versions as to the effect on Home Rule which this Bill would produce. The hon. and learned Member for Waterford said that it promoted Home Rule; the hon. Member for North Armagh said that it would have the opposite effect; and the Prime Minister thought it would have no effect at all. How are we to reconcile these different authorities?

I want to draw a comparison between the Irish farmer and the British farmer. Comparisons are odious, I know. [AN HON. MEMBER on the Irish Benches: Hear, hear!] The British farmer has gone on for years, and years. and years voting for his landlord's Party; he has got to pay a competition rent, and he will have to pay it to all eternity or will be liable to be turned out of his farm on twelve months' notice. The Irish farmer has got security of tenure; he can sell his interest in the soil; he has 38 per cent. reduction on second-term rents. Is he satisfied? Not he. He wants to get 10 per cent. reduction more on that 38 per cent. which will make 48 per cent. reduction on his original rent. In other words, he will have to pay £52 where he used to pay £100. He may get another 20 per cent.

reduction and that will make him pay £32 where he paid £100. But what is more, in sixty-nine-and-a-half years he will become the owner of the soil! The British farmer excites himself about a shilling duty on corn. The Irish farmer does not excite himself at all. I remember that the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Sleaford poured thunders of indignation on the Prime Minister for repealing the shilling duty on corn. The Irish farmer did not care a rush for the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Sleaford, but did care for the hon. Member for Cork. He has no delusions on the subject, and by trusting to his own powers of organised voting for his own interests his position is far superior to that of the British farmer. I would ask the hon. Member for Cork to come over to England and start a branch of his Land League. Then, what about the Irish landlord? The only description I can give of him is that presented of the Trust King given in his portrait by the American comic papers. You see there a gentleman with a huge cigar in his mouth, a huge corporation, with pockets bulging out with dollars, and riding on the back of somebody else. That, it seems to me will be the position of the Irish landlords. John Bull will not be the ruddy, corpulent person he has been in past years. He will be the individual sat upon. The English landlord—again the comparison comes in—does all the improvements on the farm. He puts up all the houses, farm buildings and cottages, erects the fences, digs the drains and does everything, in fact, to the amount of 15 to 20 per cent. yearly of the rental. The Irish landlord, as the First Lord of the Treasury says, does not spend a shilling on his estate. The Irish landlord takes a piece of land—it may be mountain land or a bog—lets it to a tenant, appoints a land agent, collects the rents and does nothing more. Supposing you want to take land compulsorily for public purposes in England, you pay the landlord 10 per cent. for compulsory purchase, but you pay 12 per cent. under this Bill to the Irish landlord for voluntary purchase, and at a far greater price than you can get for land in England.

An hon. Gentleman said that the Bill may be rejected in the House of Lords. He need not be in the least afraid of that. There is money in it, and the money will not be rejected by the landlords in the "gilded chamber." Mr. Gladstone was driven from office on his Land Bill. Mr. Gladstone proposed to give for first-term rents of £100, £1,600. The actual price of land in Ireland has been proved to be £1,700, or seventeen years purchase of first-term rents. What does this Bill propose to give for a first-term rent? To give £2,462, and in addition to that the Irish landlord gets £295 as a bonus, making in all £2,757. And yet Mr. Gladstone was denounced by the Colonial Secretary for giving a gigantic bribe to the Irish landlords. What kind of a bribe is it that is offered to them by this Bill? The minimum price under this Bill on first-term rents is £1,846, with a bonus of £221, or a total of £2,067, or £467 more than Mr. Gladstone proposed to give. Where Mr. Gladstone proposed to give £1 to the Irish landlords, this Bill proposes to give them £1 14s. as a maximum and £1 5s. 10d. as a minimum. I ask the House whether it was fair and right to hound Mr. Gladstone and condemn his proposals as public bribery, when you propose to give the Irish landlords these terms? But I have other figures. I take the second-term rents. The actual price of land under second-term rents, according to Lord Dunraven, as reported in *The Freeman's Journal* of 11th April, was nineteen and a half years rental, or £1,950 for every £100. What is the maximum under this Bill? £2,769 *plus* the bonus —I might call it bribe—of £332, making altogether £3,101, while under the Land Purchase Acts it has been proved to be £1,950. Take the minimum. The minimum price under this Bill is £2,154 *plus* £258 of a bonus, or a total of £2,412. If you take the average price the Irish landlord will get for second-term rents, £2,750 for £100 rental; or, as compared with the actual price paid during the period second-term rents have been in operation since 1896, for £1 the price will in the future be £1 8s., or without the bonus £1 4s. 8d. This amounts to a very considerable sum indeed when you come to deal with a rental of £4,000,000. The price on nineteen and a half years purchase would be £78,000,000, which is the actual past proved value, while the Chief Secretary estimated the price to be given now at £100,000,000; and in addition he is going to give a bonus of £12,000,000 to induce or bribe the landlords to accept this wholly extravagant price. The Imperial Government is going to give £22,000,000 on a £4,000,000 rental more than the actual value of the land as proved under the Land Purchase Acts, and in addition £12,000,000 to close the transaction. That seems to me a most admirable bargain for the Irish landlords.

I have two concrete instances to give. Two Members of the Government will receive considerable sums under the Bill. I am perfectly certain that these two noblemen would not have voted for this Bill because of the pecuniary benefit they are going to receive. But according to Thom's "Directory" their valuation for 1873 was £31,536 and £34,326 as the yearly values of their estates, or a total of £65,862 a year. Brought down to the basis of second-term rental by reducing it by 38 per cent. that would give something over £40,000 a year. The maximum price which these noblemen will receive for their £40,000 a year will be £1,107,600, and with the bonus of 12 per cent., amounting to £132,912, it makes a grand total of £1,240,512. The actual price up to now at £1,950 for £100 would be £780,000, leaving for the benefit of these two noblemen £460,512 more than the actual proved value of the land. Under the minimum price in the Bill, these noblemen will receive £694,992, or £184,992 more than the actual price paid during the last seven years. I should like to ask the Colonial Secretary, if he were here, whether this is a preferential tariff, or an old-age pension. In 1895, we know that the right hon. Gentleman had a very simple method of old-age pensions. Not only is this a very simple method, but a very generous method of old-age pensions, but it is not given to the veterans of labour. I can mention other instances where the landlords will benefit. They can borrow at 2¾ per cent., whereas the British Government cannot borrow at that. An Imperial Transvaal Loan was launched the other day at 3 per cent. Further, the legal costs of the landlords are to be paid for them; and their demesnes are to be first bought from them for golden sovereigns and then sold back to them and cleared at 3¼ per cent. for sixty-nine years, which will mean a considerable addition to many of their incomes. The Chief Secretary has proved himself to be a very charming highwayman. He has robbed us; but he has robbed us very nicely; and I think we might compare him to Claude Duval, the famous highwayman of old, who danced a minuet before his victims so well that they were almost pleased to be robbed; and I am not sure that the epitaph now on the tomb of Claude Duval might not also be applied to the Chief Secretary.

"Here lies Duval. Reader, if male thou art,
Look to thy purse; if a female, to thy heart."

MR. HERBERT ROBERTSON (Hackney, S.): The hon. Gentleman who has just spoken has indulged in a comparison between Irish landlords and their tenants and English landlords and their tenants, Everyone knows, of course, that there is no comparison or no similarity possible; and I will not, therefore, waste the time of the House in discussing it. Then the hon. Gentleman said that the landlords were receiving too much, because the average number of years' purchase lately was only nineteen and a half years. But everyone knows that the object of introducing this Bill is—because the old system of purchase has failed, that sales have not taken place; and that it is desirable that sales should take place. It was admitted that the number of years purchase which the landlords were getting was not sufficient to induce them to sell; and accordingly this Bill has been introduced in order that they may be induced to sell. The hon. Gentleman sets himself up as the representative of the English constituencies. But the majority of the English people do not take the view the hon. Gentleman takes. I represent an English constituency; I have spoken both in my constituency and out of it on this Bill; and I hear from all parts of the country that no Bill has ever been introduced by the present Government which has been received with so much approval as this Bill. That is because it is believed that this measure is going to put an end to the land difficulty in Ireland; and the English people say that it is well worth while to do that. The hon. Gentleman overlooked the fact that England will save money by this transaction. He said the English Government were going to collect rents from the Irish tenants directly; but up to the present had they not been obliged by the necessity of being a Government to collect Irish rents. When an Irish landlord was unable to collect his rent, then the burden fell on the English people; and it will be much easier to collect this rent-charge from the Irish people than it has been to collect rent in the past. The reason is clear. The rent will be reduced; and the present tenants will be the fee-simple owners of the land. Surprise was expressed to-day at the action of the landlords with regard to the clauses relating to congested districts which were brought before the House. In the landlords' interests the reason we did not support these clauses was, not in the least because we did not desire to relieve the distress of these congested districts—that is our most earnest desire—but because we thought the particular clauses brought forward would not be a solution to our mind; and secondly, because we felt that this Bill is a tenants' Bill, and cannot be transformed into a Bill dealing with the congested districts. That applies also to the labourers. My hon. and learned friend the Member for Waterford regretted that more was not done with regard to the labourers. I feel that very strongly myself. I am brought into contact with labourers very much indeed; and I am very anxious to see a Bill passed which would improve their condition. But we feel that this is a tenants, Bill, and that it would be dangerous to mix up the labourers' interests with it. I have heard prophecies on both sides of the House as to the effect of this Bill as regards Home Rule. I do not think that that matter is in the least degree relevant. By this Bill we are getting rid of an existing evil; and what effect it will have on other propositions is not, to my mind, germane. I have been delighted to hear to-day from hon. Members opposite a repetition of what they have already said—that the leaders of opinion among the tenantry in Ireland will induce them to accept this Bill and to work it in a conciliatory spirit. On both sides doubt has been expressed as to whether the Bill will work. One side says it will not work because of the action of the landlord; and the other side says it will not work because of the action of the tenant. I think we may have no fear as to the action of either the landlords or the tenants. If I may appeal to the landlord party I would express my hope that they will do their very utmost to make this Bill a success; and I believe it is the earnest hope of every hon. Gentleman representing the Irish landlords that they should do all in their power to make the Bill a success and make it a source of prosperity to Ireland in the future.

*MR. CREMER (Shoreditch, Haggerston): I do not take the same roseate view of this Bill as has been taken by many hon. Members who have spoken to-day, and, I thank the hon. Member for the South Molton Division for having exposed many of the economic fallacies contained in the Bill. The pæans of praise sung this afternoon in connection with the Bill carry me back many years to Mr. Gladstone's Bill, with reference to which the same eulogistic language was used. We were then told that it was a final measure; that it would lead to conciliation in Ireland; and that the Irish tenant would be perfectly satisfied with the new order of things to be created, but ever since then the House of Commons has been discussing the Irish land question; and it is now admitted that Mr. Gladstone's Bill failed to accomplish its object. I venture to express the opinion that this Bill will land us in still further difficulties; and that the question of Irish land tenure will still be present with the House and the country for a long series of years. The grounds on which the hon. Member for the South Molton division opposed this Bill are not the grounds on which I oppose it. I oppose it because I am a believer in the principle of land nationalisation. I believe in the opinion which I heard John Stuart Mill express in the lobby of this House hirty years ago that the only equitable basis of land tenure rests in the land being the property of the State. That not only applies to the land, but to the minerals beneath the land as well. That has been my creed all my life so far as land tenure is concerned; and it is because this Bill extends the evils of the existing system of individual proprietorship that I feel bound to oppose it to the best of my small ability. What has happened? When the Bill was introduced I felt that, as a land nationaliser, though with some qualms of conscience, I was justified in voting for it on the ground that it proposed what every land nationaliser had for many years been contending for—viz., that the State had a right to use the funds of the nation for the purpose of buying out individual proprietors of land. The Bill also contained a still more important principle—viz., that the State should retain some hold on the land of the country by a perpetual rent-charge, a very small one, I admit, but I felt that it recognised the right of the State to exercise some control over the ownership of land. That most vital principle was omitted at the instigation of the Irish Members, and from that moment the interest I took in this Bill vanished entirely, and I came to the conclusion that it was my duty as a land nationaliser to protest against it. Within the last twenty years the principle of land nationalisation has been growing enormously, and now we have incorporated in a Bill, brought in by a Tory Government, the principle for which land nationalisers have so long contended; but land nationalisers are unable to understand why, when a right has once been conceded, it should be withdrawn as has been done in this Bill. If the Government had purchased and retained possession of the land the tenants of Ireland would have had the best guarantee that has ever been offered to them that they would never again be subjected to the system of landlordism under which they have so long groaned. The land being the property of the State, the State would have let it on equitable terms, and if it did not, then this House or an Irish Parliament would call the Government to book. This rent-charge, however, has disappeared at the instigation of the Irish Members. I therefore have no further interest whatever in this Bill, and if a division takes place—and I am only one of a handful of Members—I shall vote against it. You are going by this Bill to get rid of the big landlords, who have been called the great tyrants of Ireland, and in the place of every great tyrant you knock down you are going to raise a hundred small ones who will sweat, not only the land, but sweat the labourers, who will tell you if they are asked that they would sooner work for big landowners, because they are treated more like men, receive better wages, and not sweated as they are by small proprietors. For these reasons, and because I feel assured that the Bill is not a fiscal measure but merely palliative, and that the cupidity of some and the misfortunes of others of the small proprietors which it will create will in a few generations lead to a reproduction of the evils which it professes to remedy, and that the battle of Landlordism will have to be fought over again. I shall if it goes to a division vote against it.

Mr. T. M. HEALY (Louth, N.): If the hon. Member who has just sat down goes into the division lobby against this Bill he will vote against a Bill that, for the first time in the history of this House, does do something for the nationalisation of the land, because under it the mines and minerals are nationalised, and, instead of going to the proprietor of the soil, are vested in a Department of State, and so must go to benefiting the whole community. I would not, however, have risen but for a remark made by the hon. Member for South Molton, who has by comparison shown us the amount of gratitude he feels to a small body in this House. He made one remark, though perhaps he was not conscious of the amount of mischief it might do, with regard to two members of the Cabinet, Lord Londonderry and the Duke of Devonshire. They are two large proprietors in Ireland, and the example they set to their colleagues in the House of Lords and the landlords of Ireland may have a vital influence on the pacification of the country, and if, by taunts delivered against two particular members of the Cabinet as to the amount of gain they may derive from a measure of this kind, these two noble Lords are prevented from selling their estates at a fair price to their tenants, the result may have the effect of hanging up the purchase of land in Ireland for a great many years and keeping it in the hands of a few. Take the composition of the House of Lords—take men like the Duke of Leinster, the Duke of Abercorn, and Lord Londonderry; men owning large tracts of country who would naturally take their tone from those proprietors with whom we have never had a quarrel. Would it not be deplorable if, by means of taunts thrown in this House they were prevented from setting a good example and making it fashionable in Ireland for landlords to part with their estates. I only rise to protest against such remarks lest they should have any effect on those landlords who, I hope, will set a good example to their colleagues.

There is one other remark I would like to make. This is the first Bill in which the House of Lords will have a real opportunity of doing something to benefit the Irish people without hurting themselves. Some reference has been made to-day to the effect that this Bill may be in some jeopardy as to some of its provisions. I do not think so at all. I think this Bill, speaking generally, will pass the House of Lords, and that if there is any attempt made by the minor Irish landlords to affect its provisions I hope the great landlords will remember that the general body of tenants will look to them for an example. But there are a number of small matters in which the House of Lords, if they are wise, will move—small Amendments which the Government in this House have declined to accept mainly on the ground of want of time to discuss them; Amendments moved from these Benches on the subject of labourers' cottages and the making of roads and the like. For the first time, let them remember, this land is going to pass out of their hands into the hands of small peasant proprietors, and they will do a great service if they take up some of the Amendments we moved in this House, seeing that the Bill, so far as they are concerned, is to determine their connection with their Irish estates. The only other remark I have to make is this. The hon. Member for South Tyrone has said this Bill is defective with regard to its dealing with the Land Judge's Court. I would beg the Attorney-General to bear in mind what has been said by the Chief Secretary and the promise he gave us on the Report stage in regard to the Land Judge's Court. Many millions worth of land is at present impounded in the Land Court. The only complaint we have to make with regard to the Government is that, while we were allowed plenty of time to discuss this matter in Committee, there were a number of Amendments put down on Report which were considerably hurried over. I hope the Chief Secretary, amid the chorus of congratulations which has come upon him from unexpected quarters, will not forget the promises he made on the Report stage. We shall look very keenly after them when the Bill comes back from the House of Lords. The fact that no bonus is given in the Land Judge's Court will undoubtedly clog, to a great extent, the operation of the Bill, because the encumbrancers and owners now in the Land Judge's Court will take out their estates, and to that extent will congest the other Departments of State which have to deal with the question of Irish land purchase. That is the only other remark I rose for the purpose of making. It is hardly necessary for me, having regard to the general action I have taken on Bills of this kind, to add any further word. I associate myself to a great extent with the speech of the hon. and learned Member for Waterford. I think it was a wise and statesmanlike speech. The only risk is that, in the minds of the Irish tenants, there may be the idea that this Bill, as regards the land of Ireland as a whole, will come into something like immediate operation. I trust that no disappointment will be engendered by that idea. This question must take time. A system which it has taken 700 years to create will not be destroyed in a moment. However, I congratulate the House and ourselves that we have seen the reign of oppression passing before our eyes.

MR. LEAMY (Kildare, N.): There are two points on which I wish to say a word—viz., the Congested Districts Board and the labourers. The hon. Member for South Tyrone said that this Bill was accomplishing a revolution. Yes, it is undoing to a large extent the evils of past confiscation in Ireland, and, that being so, I think it is to be regretted that the province which offered refuge to men of the old race and creed of all the other provinces, is the one least likely to benefit by this Bill. The Congested Districts Board has done good work, and it will certainly do better work in the future, but the Connaught problem cannot be dealt with by the Board with its present powers. That problem is a part of the great land question, but it requires special treatment. It was described in a sentence a few years ago by the present Archbishop of Tuam, when he said that in certain districts there were tracts of territory, which, if broken up into tillage, would produce enough to feed the entire peasant population of Connaught. As long as that is the case, as long as that vast territory is given over to cattle and sheep, so long you will have agrarian trouble in Ireland, and it will be impossible to say that peace reigns. I hope, therefore, the Chief Secretary will be able to give us a further measure dealing with this question. Connaught may be sure that the other provinces will stand by her. It would be a cruel and ungenerous thing if they did not. It was in Connaught the land agitation sprang up. The land war began and has continued in Connaught, and the other provinces will never forget what they owe to her. With regard to the labourers' question, I think, on the whole, it is better to have the promise of the Chief Secretary than to attempt merely to tinker with the question by some trifling Amendments in the present Bill. We have seen what the Chief Secretary is capable of doing; we recognise his sincerity and ability; and we admit that this Bill is a great attempt to settle a very difficult question. That being so, I think we can have full confidence that the Bill he has promised will not be a peddling measure, but an honest attempt to deal with what also is a very great question. It is in the interests of the entire community that the question should be thoroughly dealt with. The labourers are being driven from the country, and they can only be kept at home by inducements which they have not hitherto received. Everybody who has been associated with the land war for the last twenty years knows how loyally the labourers have stood by the farmers. They were the backbone of the agitation, and I hope the result of this promise will be a measure which will satisfy the cravings of the Irish labourer to have a decent home and a plot of land on which he can live with credit and honour in his own country.

MR. NORMAN (Wolverhampton, S.): I think it peculiarly appropriate, even in the eleventh hour, that a small expression of regret should come from these Benches. The Prime Minister said that, although he hoped this Bill would go a long way towards settling the agrarian question in Ireland, he fully realised that what he called the political question would still remain. I was much struck with that remark, because for many years past we have been told by the Party opposite that once the agrarian question was settled the political question would be settled. Everybody on this side of the House, I think, agrees with the Prime Minister that the political question will not be settled by this Bill, and it is on that point that my little protest arises. The Bill as originally presented to the Cabinet, if we are well informed, would have gone a long way towards settling this agrarian question in Ireland. It was drafted by a distinguished administrator, I suppose one might safely say with that purpose largely in his mind, but unfortunately his advice was not taken. Perhaps, to avoid misconception, I ought to say that in referring to Sir A. Macdonnell, I do so entirely without his knowledge; I do not know him in any way; I have never seen him; I have never had any communication, directly or indirectly, with him, except that he once wrote me a letter protesting against my having mentioned his name in print as the technical author of this Bill. I believe it is a fact that the Bill as orginally presented to the Cabinet went a considerable distance towards giving Irish local authorities the powers which many of us on these Benches had for a long time desired to give them. The Bill—I am open to correction, of course—placed at the disposal of the Irish local authorities a very large sum of money—more than this grant of £12,000,000——

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: No.

MR. NORMAN: I may be mis-stating the form of words, but my point is—though, of course, I have not seen the Bill as originally drafted—that there were considerable powers given to the Irish local authorities in connection with finance, and it was in consequence of that that there were determined cries of alarm about Home Rule raised which were immediately repudiated on behalf of the Government. My regret is that from the Bill as it reached this House those powers had disappeared.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I think the hon. Gentleman is labouring under a great error. He seems to suppose that in one draft of the Bill as presented to the Cabinet there was some element of provincial government approaching to Home Rule. There was nothing of the kind contemplated at any stage of the Bill.

MR. NORMAN: I cannot have made myself at all clear. I had nothing like provincial Home Rule in my mind. What I tried to say, and what is in my mind, is that certain powers were given to Irish local authorities which do not appear in the Bill as it is about to pass this House. I have been a believer in the principle of land purchase for a much longer period than His Majesty's Government; I supported this Bill on its First and Second Readings, and if there were a division now I should support it again, because I believe it will remove many great and grievous evils in Ireland. But I do not believe it will settle anything except the affairs of those landlords and tenants who come immediately under its operation. The other and greater question remains, and the germ of the solution of that greater question, which I believe was to be found in the original Bill——

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: No, it was not. I give that statement specific contradiction.

MR. NORMAN: Well then, the germ of the settlement of that greater question could perfectly well have been put in this Bill. If that had been done, the scope of the measure would have been infinitely greater, and it would have been much more heartily welcomed and enthusiastically supported by the friends of Ireland on this side of the House, among whom I hope I may be counted. That not having been done now, it will have to be done at some future time, and my expression of regret is that so splendid an opportunity has been lost.

MR. LOUGH (Islington, W.): As one who is deeply interested in Ireland, I desire to express my sense of the great value of the Bill as it now stands. It is not sufficiently remembered on this side of the House that, to the Prime Minister's credit, this is the last of a series of great measures—the Land Bill of 1896, the Local Government Act of 1898, the Technical Instruction and Agricultural Board Act of 1899, and the present Bill. This Bill goes a great deal farther than any previous measure of its kind. I think a word of praise is also due to the Opposition. The present situation has been described as a peaceful, bloodless revolution, but the absence of blood is accounted for by the fact that the Opposition supported the Government very loyally, and strained a good deal in supporting this Bill. I do not think the attitude of the Opposition ought to be forgotten. The Leader of the Opposition has adopted a very good example with regard to these debates, and I am sure we must all be obliged to the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Montrose and the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Berwick for the excellent speeches they made upon this Bill. A new feature has been illustrated by the passage of this Bill, and it is that the two great political Parties have ceased to make Ireland the battleground for their political differences. We have had no obstruction on the part of the Opposition; on the contrary, every Member of it has tried to help the Government, although some of us think this Bill is far from perfect. That memory makes me recall the fact that Liberal Governments were not helped in the same way when they tried to pass remedial measures for Ireland, and in particular a measure like this. Seventeen years ago a Bill containing the same principle was introduced by Mr. Gladstone, and if the Opposition had then given the same support as that which has been extended to this Bill seventeen years of suffering in Ireland would have been saved, and the landlords would have got just the same price for their land. Those seventeen years have seen 700,000 people driven out of Ireland, and all this

Bill can do will not be able to recall those people. After one hundred years of misgovernment and maltreatment another spirit has intervened, and the Opposition have learned something of their responsibility as well as the Government. Whenever the Irish Party take charge of a matter like this they do it in a picturesque way, and it is remarkable that during the Committee stage of this Bill very few divisions have taken place. I think we might take a lesson from the Irish Members in this respect, and if we divide less and debate more it would be much better. What is the good of the physical labour of walking through the division lobby? By devoting themselves to an intelligent discussion of this question the Irish representatives have set British Members an example which I hope will not be entirely thrown away.

With regard to all that has been said about the British taxpayer, I regard that as something that we might have expected, but as something which we could have done just as well without. For many years the British taxpayer has dominated the whole situation with regard to Ireland, but after learning lessons from history a change has come over the House of Commons, and hon. Members have now been persuaded that the British Government financially have been very unjust to Ireland in the past. At the same time this country has not ceased to make exactions from Ireland. A great deal has been said about this £12,000,000 dealt with in this Bill, but the taxes of Ireland have been increased so much of late years that this sum might very well be forgotten. There is now a disposition to do something for Ireland besides exacting taxation from that country. I am aware that the Bill itself will not cure all the evils of Ireland. It will be very slow in its operation. I claim that it is the Irish Members who have managed this Bill and carried it to a successful conclusion, and if all the great affairs of the country are dealt with in the same way, and if both Parties will observe the same reticence, then we shall be able to restore prosperity to Ireland.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: I have a Command from the King to acquaint the House that His Majesty having been informed of the purport of this Bill, places his interest at the disposal of Parliament.

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 317; Noes, 20. (Division List No. 175.)

AYES.

Abraham, W. (*Cork, N.E.*)
Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Allhusen, Aug. Henry Eden
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Arrol, Sir William
Asher, Alexander
Atkinson, Right Hon. John
Bagot, Capt. Josceline FitzRoy
Bailey, James (*Walworth*)
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Baird, John George Alexander
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J. (*Man'r*
Balfour, Capt. C. B. (*Hornsey*
Balfour, RtHnGerald W. (*Leeds*
Balfour, Kenneth R. (*Christch.*
Barry, E. (*Cork, S.*)
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.
Bignold, Arthur
Bill, Charles
Blake, Edward
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Brotherton, Edward Allen
Bull, William James
Burke, E. Haviland

Mr. Lough.

Burt, Thomas
Butcher, John George
Caldwell, James
Cameron, Robert
Campbell, Rt. Hn. J A (*Glasgow*
Campbell, John (*Armagh, S.*)
Carson, Rt. Hn. Sir Edward H.
Carvill, Patrick Geo. Hamilton
Causton, Richard Knight
Cavendish, V. C. W. (*Derbysh.*)
Cayzer, Sir Charles William
Cecil, Lord Hugh (*Greenwich*)
Chamberlain, Rt Hon J (*Birm*
Chamberlain, Rt. Hn. J A (*Worc*
Chapman, Edward
Charrington, Spencer
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Clancy, John Joseph
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Coddington, Sir William
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Collings, Right Hon. Jesse
Colomb, Sir John Chas. Ready
Colston, Chas. Edw H. Athole
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Cox, Irwin Edward Bainbridge
Craig, Charles Curtis (*Antrim, S*
Craig, Robert Hunter (*Lanark*
Cranborne, Viscount

Crean, Eugene
Cripps, Charles Alfred
Crombie, John William
Cross, Alexander (*Glasgow*)
Cross, H. Shepherd (*Bolton*)
Crossley, Rt. Hon. Sir Savile
Cullinan, J.
Cust, Henry John C.
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Davenport, William Bromley-
Davies, Alfred (*Carmarthen*)
Delany, William
Denny, Colonel
Devlin, Chas. Ramsay (*Galway*)
Devlin, Joseph (*Kilkenny, N.*)
Dewar, John A. (*Inverness-sh.*)
Dewar, Sir T. R. (*Tr. Haml'ts*
Dickson, Charles Scott
Dillon, John
Dimsdale, Rt. Hn. Sir Joseph C.
Donelan, Captain A.
Doogan, P. C.
Doughty, George
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers
Duffy, William J.
Duncan, J. Hastings
Dunn, Sir William
Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas

Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Evans, Saml. T. (*Glamorgan*)
Fardell, Sir T. George
Farquharson, Dr. Robert
Farrell, James Patrick
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
Fergusson, Rt Hn Sir J. (*Manc'r*
Ffrench, Peter
Field, William
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmund
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Flynn, James Christopher
Forster, Henry William
Foster, P. S. (*Warwick, S.W.*
Fuller, J. M. F.
Galloway, William Johnson
Gardner, Ernest
Garfit, William
Gibbs, Hn. Vicary (*St. Albans*
Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herbert J.
Godson, Sir Augustus Frederick
Gordon, Hn J E (*Elgin and N'rn*
Gore, Hn G. R. C. Ormsby- (*Salop*
Gore, Hon. S. F. Ormsby- (*Linc.*
Goschen, Hon. Geo. Joachim
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Gray, Ernest (*West Ham*)
Greene, Henry D. (*Shrewsbury*)
Greene, W. Raymond (*Cambs*
Grey, Rt. Hon. Sir E. (*Berwick*)
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Gunter, Sir Robert
Hain, Edward
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Hall, Edward Marshall
Halsey, Rt. Hon. Thomas F.
Hamilton, Rt Hn Lord G (*Midd'x*
Hamilton, Marq. of (*L'ndn'de'ry*
Hammond, John
Hardy, Laurence (*Kent, Ashf'd*
Harwood, George
Haslam, Sir Alfred S.
Hatch, Ernest Frederick Geo.
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Hayden, John Patrick
Healy, Timothy Michael
Heath, Arthur H. (*Hanley*)
Heath, James (*Staffords. N. W.*)
Helder, Augustus
Hobhouse, Rt Hn H (*Somerset, E*
Hope, John Deans (*Fife, West*)
Horner, Frederick William
Horniman, Frederick John
Hoult, Joseph
Howard, Jno (*Kent, Faver'hm*
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Humphreys-Owen, Arthur C.
Hutchinson, Dr. Charles Fredk.
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jeffreys, Rt. Hn. Arthur Fred
Jessel, Capt. Herbert Merton
Jones, David B. (*Swansea*)
Jones, William (*Carnarvonsh.*)
Joyce, Michael
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kemp, Lieut.-Colonel George
Kennedy, Patrick James
Kenyon, Hon. G. T. (*Denbigh*
Kenyon-Slaney, Col. W. (*Salop*
Kerr, John
Kilbride, Denis
King, Sir Henry Seymour
Langley, Batty
Law, Andrew Bonar (*Glasgow*)
Law, H. Alex. (*Donegal, W.*)
Lawrence, Sir Jos. (*Monm'th*)
Lawson, John Grant (*Yorks. N R*
Leamy, Edmund
Lee, A. H. (*Hants, Fareham*)
Leese, Sir Jos. F. (*Accrington*)
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Long, Rt. Hn. W. (*Bristol, S.*)
Lough, Thomas
Lucas, Reginald J. (*Portsmouth*
Lundon, W.
Lyttelton, Hon. Alfred
Macdona, John Cumming
MacIver, David (*Liverpool*)
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
Maconochie, A. W.
MacVeagh, Jeremiah
M'Arthur, Charles (*Liverpool*)
M'Iver, Sir Lewis (*Edinb'rgh W*)
M'Killop, James (*Stirlingshire*)
M'Killop, W. (*Sligo, North*)
Martin, Richard Biddulph
Maxwell, Rt Hn Sir H. E (*Wigt'n*
Melville, Beresford Valentine
Milvain, Thomas
Montagu, Hn. J. Scott (*Hants.*)
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
Mooney, John J.
Morrell, George Herbert
Morton, Arthur H. Aylmer
Mowbray, Sir Robert Gray C.
Murphy, John
Murray, Rt Hn A. Graham (*Bute*
Murray, Charles J. (*Coventry*)
Myers, William Henry
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Nolan, Col. John P. (*Galway, N.*
Nolan, Joseph (*Louth, S.*)
Norman, Henry
O'Brien, James F. X. (*Cork*)
O'Brien, K. (*Tipperary, Mid*)
O'Brien, Patrick (*Kilkenny*)
O'Brien, P. J. (*Tipperary, N.*)
O'Brien, William (*Cork*)
O'Connor, Jas. (*Wicklow, W.*)
O'Connor, T. P. (*Liverpool*)
O'Donnell, John (*Mayo, S.*)
O'Donnell, T. (*Kerry, W.*)
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, Conor (*Mayo, N.*)
O'Kelly, J. (*Roscommon, N.*)
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
Orr-Ewing, Charles Lindsay
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
O'Shee, James John
Palmer, Sir C. M. (*Durham*)
Palmer, Walter (*Salisbury*)
Parkes, Ebenezer
Partington, Oswald
Paulton, James Mellor
Peel, Hn Wm. Robert Wellesley
Pemberton, John S. G.
Percy, Earl
Pilkington, Colonel Richard
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Power, Patrick Joseph
Pretyman, Ernest George
Purvis, Robert
Ratcliff, R. F.
Reddy, M.
Redmond, Jn. E. (*Waterford*)
Redmond, William (*Clare*)
Reid, James (*Greenock*)
Reid, Sir R. Threshie (*Dumfries*
Renshaw, Sir Charles Bine
Renwick, George
Rickett, J. Compton
Rigg, Richard
Ritchie, Rt. Hn. C. Thomson
Roberts, John H. (*Denbighs.*)
Roberts, Samuel (*Sheffield*)
Robertson, H. (*Hackney*)
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rolleston, Sir John F. L.
Ropner, Colonel Sir Robert
Round, Rt. Hon. James
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Russell, T. W.
Rutherford, John (*Lancashire*)
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford-
Sadler, Col. Samuel Alexander
Samuel, Harry S. (*Limehouse*)
Samuel, Herbt. L. (*Cleveland*)
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Saunderson, Rt. Hn. Col. E. J.
Schwann, Charles E.
Seely, Chas. Hilton (*Lincoln*)
Seely, Maj. J. E. B. (*Isle of Wight*
Seton-Karr, Sir Henry
Shackleton, David James
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Shaw, Charles E. (*Stafford*)
Shaw-Stewart, M. H. (*Renfrew*)
Sheehan, Daniel Daniel
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair, Louis (*Romford*)
Skewes-Cox, Thomas
Sloan, Thomas Henry
Smith, Jas. Parker (*Lanarks.*)
Smith, Hn. W. F. D. (*Strand*)
Spear, John Ward
Stanley, Edw. Jas. (*Somerset*)
Stanley, Lord (*Lancs.*)
Stirling-Maxwell, Sir Jn. M.
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
Sullivan, Donal
Talbot, Lord E. (*Chichester*)
Talbot, Rt. Hn. J. G. (*Oxf'd Univ*
Taylor, Austin (*East Toxteth*)
Taylor, Theodore C. (*Radcliffe*)
Thomas, A. (*Carmarthen, E.*)
Thomas, Sir A. (*Glamorgan, E.*)
Tomkinson, James
Tomlinson, Sir Wm. E. M.
Toulmin, George
Tritton, Charles Ernest
Ure, Alexander
Valentia, Viscount
Walrond, Rt Hon Sir William H.
Walton, Joseph (*Barnsley*)
Wason, E. (*Clackmannan*)
Wason, J. Cathcart (*Orkney*)
Webb, Colonel William George
Welby, Lt.-Col A. C. E. (*Taunton*
Whiteley, H. (*Ashton-u.-Lyne*)
Whitley, J. H. (*Halifax*)
Wilson, A. S. (*York, E. R.*)
Wilson, H. J. (*York, W. R.*)

Wilson, John (*Falkirk*)
Wilson-Todd, W. H. (*Yorks.*)
Wodehouse, Rt. Hn. E. R. (*Bath*
Worsley-Taylor, Henry Wilson
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart
Wylie, Alexander
Yerburgh, Robt. Armstrong
Young, Samuel

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Channing, Francis Allston
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Dixon-Hartland, Sir F. Dixon
Elibank, Master of
Gretton, John
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Charles Seale-
Lambert, George
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (*Cornwall*)
Markham, Arthur Basil
Morgan, J. Lloyd (*Carmarthen*)
Moulton, John Fletcher
Philipps, John Wynford
Priestley, Arthur
Robson, William Snowdon
Soares, Ernest J.
Strachey, Sir Edward
Thorburn, Sir Walter
Wilson, Chas. H. (*Hull, W.*)

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Cremer and Mr. Pirie.

MILITARY WORKS (CONSOLIDATED FUND.)

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. JEFFREYS (Hampshire, N.) in the Chair.]

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (Mr. BRODRICK, Surrey, Guildford) said the Committee would recollect that for many years past it had been a principle accepted by both parties that defence works on a large scale and permanent buildings should be erected by loan, and should not be made a charge on the annual Votes. That was a decision due to the deliberations of a special Committee appointed by this House in 1887, of which Lord Randolph Churchill was chairman. The Committee was appointed solely for economical reasons, and, after a careful review of the whole situation, it came to the conclusion that the barracks required under schemes of reconstruction, and our coaling stations abroad could not be kept in a proper state if the sums expended were made dependent on the sums voted to the 31st March each year. For that reason it had been customary to vote sums by loan, so that a definite programme should be placed before Parliament. Bills for this purpose had been introduced in 1897, 1899, and 1901, and the Government were forced to bring in one this year. Two principles had been adopted in regard to them. The first was that no buildings and no works should be commenced in excess of the money voted by Parliament under the loan—that was to say, they were not justified in beginning large works and spending £20,000 if they were to cost £100,000 simply because they had £20,000 in hand. They had not to undertake anything beyond the exact sum of money given to them in the Bill. The second principle was that no more money should be asked in any one Bill than it was believed could be expended, or contracted to be expended, in the next two years. They were well aware that the sums asked in 1897, 1899, and 1901 could not possibly complete the housing of the troops in barracks. The object of the second principle was that, instead of coming forward and asking for one large sum, which, once voted, would enable them to escape entirely from the purview of Parliament, they should come every two or three years, so that Parliament, if it wished, could go into questions and consider whether any change had occurred which rendered it desirable to alter the programme formerly submitted. Under the Bill of 1897 the sum asked was £5,458,000; in 1899 £4,000,000 was asked; and in 1901 £6,352,000 was asked. The sum asked at present was £5,000,000. There was no change of principle in any direction in asking for this money. In the first place it was to be devoted to the completion of defence works, the principle of which had already been agreed to by Parliament; secondly, to the completion of the housing of troops voted by Parliament, but for whom barracks did not at present exist; and thirdly, to the providing of a sum for the hutting of the force in South Africa, which had to be commenced at the beginning of this year and which would require to be completed, as the troops had been under canvas for over three years.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean): How many men ?

MR. BRODRICK: For 25,000 men in all, less the barrack accommodation already existing. They would find it desirable to get rid of some of the existing barracks, and to erect huts for the troops in more healthy situations. In that way any balance which might arise from the sale of the barracks would be taken as an appropriation in aid.

MR. WHITLEY (Halifax): Will the huts last thirty years ?

MR. BRODRICK: Yes. The huts which were erected in the Crimea lasted for twelve or fourteen years, and some nearly twenty years. They were of a very different character from the huts now being erected in South Africa, which were superior, and which there was no doubt would last considerably longer than the Crimean barracks. There was a third head on which they had to ask for money. The Committee would recollect that three years ago a Committee sat under Sir Francis Mowatt which recommended a very large addition to stores in reserve. That addition would practically be accomplished at the end of the present year. With the exception of about £250,000, the whole sum of £9,000,000 or £10,000,000 would have been spent. It was obvious, therefore, that a certain increase in storehouse accommodation would be required. Then there was the question of training grounds and rifle ranges. The Committee had never grudged money for either rifle ranges or training grounds, and the sum of £700,000 was included in the loan for these purposes. He had no doubt that the great anxiety of members of the Committee would be to know to what extent there might be any finality to these demands. The demand must be biennial or triennial until the construction of barracks was completed. They asked on this occasion for sufficient to complete what was necessary for the combatant unit, allowing, of course, for the fact that whatever was spent on hutments in South Africa would have had to be spent in permanent barracks in this country. There would remain, and must remain, the question of housing certain departmental troops and accessories which could not be completed by any contract now made. They were taking a sum which they believed could be fairly allotted during the period of the Bill, and they were only taking what would suffice to house the cavalry and artillery actually in existence. The loan did not provide for any fresh infantry barracks beyond those for which provision was now made as having been allotted to the South African force. The same principle obtained and would obtain under this Bill as obtained under previous Bills. The whole sum was repayable by annuities over thirty years, so that already the annual Estimates were bearing a heavy charge, and would bear a heavier charge for the interest and repayment of this loan. Thus they would not be putting on posterity the charge for erecting these barracks, which he hoped would last four or five times the period occupied in the repayment of the loan. It was clearly stated by his noble friend in 1901 that the amount then taken for barrack accommodation was less than half the amount that would be needed, which it was felt the House would gladly grant for those new barracks required solely to house the troops which had already been voted by Parliament. He did not know that he need go into detail at this stage. The only question before them was whether by Resolution the Government should be empowered out of the Consolidated Fund to issue the sum necessary to continue the work to which they were already committed by Parliamentary sanction, and to complete the housing of troops whose raising they had already been allowed to carry out and who were on the Estimates for the current year. He begged to move.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That it is expedient to make further provisions for defraying the expenses of certain military works and other military services, and to authorise the issue out of the Consolidated Fund of such sums, not exceeding £5,000,000, as may be required for those purposes, and to make provision for raising, in the manner provided by Section 2 of the Military Works Act, 1897, the sums so issued by terminable annuities for a period not exceeding thirty years from the date of borrowing." — (*Mr. Secretary Brodrick.*)

*Sir CHARLES DILKE said that the Secretary of State for War had stated that there was no change of principle in this Bill. That in a particular sense was true, but in reality there was a new departure in respect of the sanction which would be given by it to the South African scheme, because power was taken in the Bill to hut a far larger number of troops than was thought necessary in February, half of whom were intended for other than South African needs. While he thought he should not be in order in discussing the difficulties which some of them had in regard to the recruiting and reserves of the force, he thought he should be in order in considering the principle, which some of them thought a heresy, of tying up a portion of the British Army to a particular need as regards war. He submitted that he should be in order in discussing the localisation of troops provided for under the Resolution.

Mr. BRODRICK said that the right hon. Gentleman would be in order in discussing the localisation of troops on the Second Reading of the Bill; but, technically, localisation was not before them in the Resolution now being considered by the Committee.

*Sir CHARLES DILKE said he would only make one remark, and that was, if there was any possibility or probability in a sudden strain or pinch of the Empire of these troops being required in South Africa they would not be available for India.

Mr. GIBSON BOWLES (Lynn Regis) said he believed it would be in order on the Resolution to discuss the localisation of troops involved in the expenditure for the erection of huts in South Africa. He would point out that unless the Committee took that opportunity of discussing the matter they might find it closured on the Second Reading of the Bill. He rose mainly, however, in order to deal with the financial aspects of the proposal before the Committee. For some reason which he could not understand the Secretary of State for War had shown himself less liberal than the First Lord of the Admiralty in telling the Committee what he wanted to take this money for. He submitted that the right hon. Gentleman had treated the House unfairly in bringing forward a demand for £5,000,000, which might have been £10,000,000, without giving them an opportunity of adequately considering the matter before they were called upon to discuss it. The right hon. Gentleman talked of £5,000,000 as if it were twopence-halfpenny. It was an immense sum, and the Committee should remember that it was in addition to other immense sums which had been already asked for in the same way, which he believed to be unconstitutional. This was part of the £20,800,000 which had been asked for in the course of six years, not one halfpenny of which had been properly put, as it should have been put, on the yearly Estimates. The demands of the right hon. Gentleman in respect of this £5,000,000 ought to be put into the yearly Estimates, and he should come to the House not every two or three years but every year for what he wanted. There was one item the right hon. Gentleman had mentioned as forming part of the objects for expenditure for which he sought the authorisation of the Committee—viz., the reserve of stores. Would the right hon. Gentleman say what portion of the £5,000,000 that would stand for?

Mr. BRODRICK said it was not for stores, but for storehouses.

Mr. GIBSON BOWLES said there was another point. The right hon. Gentleman had stated, in effect, that not only would this £5,000,000 be applied to hutting soldiers in South Africa, but that in case he sold these barracks for money, he would apply the money as an appropriation-in-aid to the diminution of sums already expended. If so, he thought that would require a special clause in the Bill. There was no general power in the Treasury to use these sums raised by loan as appropriations-in-aid. The point was very important, because, in addition to the

£5,000,000 which the right hon. Gentleman was going to spend, he might get another £1,000,000 from the sale of the barracks, which would make £6,000,000 in all. Returning to the general financial considerations that applied to these matters, he objected that both the Act of last year authorising the issue of £8,500,000, and the present Bill authorising the issue of another £5,000,000, were improper measures. They were most disastrous to sound finance, because both the £8,500,000 and the £5,000,000 disappeared from the Estimates, and were not subject to examination and cross-examination on the merits of the expenditure. It was not the same thing as having the items in an Estimate before the House, and being able to move the omission of any one of them. Once the House had passed this Bill the matter had gone out of their hands, and the items had passed entirely away from them. In his opinion it was a most improper way for any Government to obtain money, to come down and ask the House in advance to vote sums like this. It was a modern and inconvenient practice. When it was first introduced, the House was told it was for once, and once only, but it had continued from year to year, and he certainly was not surprised to hear his right hon. friend say that he would come again next year to the House with another Loan Bill.

MR. BRODRICK: If I am at the War Office.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES said he would not suggest for a moment that his right hon. friend would be at the War Office, but either he or some other right hon. Gentleman would come down to the House with another Loan Bill. Among all the liabilities placed upon this country, properly or improperly, this seemed to him to be the most irregular and inconvenient, but when they had regard to the way in which millions were flung about and liabilities were assumed, he could only say that he should be sorry for the person who held the position of Chancellor of the Exchequer three or four years hence. He was exceedingly doubtful whether he ought to vote in favour of the demand for another £5,000,000. What proportion of that £5,000,000 was represented by hutments he did not know, but it looked to him as if a most important new departure was being made, and he could only protest against such a dangerous departure.

MR. BLACK (Banffshire) said in the matter arising in regard to the hutments in South Afrca it was important to know to whom these hutments were to belong—whether they were to belong to the War Office and the Imperial Office, or to the Colonial Government of the country in which they were situated. If to the Colonial Government, it was quite clear it was out of the question to ask this country to borrow money to pay for them. They should form a charge on the Government to whom they belonged; but assuming that the War Office took them, surely they must be part of the expense of the Army of occupation in South Africa. Therefore in this Loan Bill they had a most important principle and one which deeply affected all South African questions. Were the South African colonies, or were they not, to bear the cost of the Army of occupation, and, if not, what reason was there for their not doing so? India paid the whole cost of the troops in India, and why should this distinction be drawn?

MR. WINSTON CHURCHILL (Oldham) thought the Committee would not wish to prolong the discussion unduly on the details of the Resolution which the right hon. Gentleman had introduced but he would point out that if this discussion were to be allowed to terminate within a reasonable time it must be on the understanding that a good opportunity of discussing, in all its bearings, the measure to be founded on this Resolution would be given. They had not merely to consider financial methods, but the methods of building the hutments. Were they to be built by the Royal Engineers or by civilian contractors? He had no confidence in barracks built by Royal Engineers; they were very good, perhaps, to build pontoon bridges when required, or patch up anything in the field, but there was no one less qualified to put up permanent buildings. A large part of the manœuvring area of Salisbury Plain had been covered with acres of brickwork three or four courses high until it looked more like the ruins of an ancient city than the foundations of a new town.

MR. BRODRICK interrupted to say that the opportunity for discussion for which he was asked would be given on Friday, when it was proposed to take the Second Reading of the Bill as the first Order.

MR. WINSTON CHURCHILL was glad to hear this, for the whole question of barrack building in South Africa would be discussed with great interest. The size of the barracks was involved in the size of the Army, and the position of the new barracks was involved in the system of Army organisation. They shrank from embodying in bricks and mortar proposals which had not hitherto escaped from criticism. He hoped his right hon. friend would be able to tell the House how he had modified the barrack scheme, which this money was asked for to carry out, in view of the change of policy at the War Office. It was quite certain if larger garrisons were sent to South Africa so much barrack accommodation would not be wanted in England, and there would be economy there which would to a large extent pay for the barracks in South Africa. With regard to recruiting, the recruits for the Army this year were 6,000 less than last. Recruiting at present was below the requirements of the Secretary for War. If we were not going to have the men, was it worth while to build for them? Specific pledges had been given as to a reduction of the Army when the Reserve was completed. The bearing of these pledges on the barrack accommodation to be provided in South Africa had to be considered. The Chancellor of the Exchequer had promised a reduction in military expenditure. That could only be effected by reducing the size of the Army; and there was a general consensus of opinion in favour of such a step. He should also like to point out it was quite possible that military questions might be reconsidered from a totally different standpoint by another Government in the near future; and he objected to the nation being committed to an expensive policy of bricks and mortar, which in a few years might not square with the views of the Government of the time.

MR. COURTENAY WARNER (Staffordshire, Lichfield) said there were two or three points to which the House should have an answer before going further. He quite agreed with the hon. Member for Oldham in what he had said, and felt quite certain the country would not stand the enormous military expenditure that was now going on, and would demand that it should be reduced. There was one point in connection with South African huts. As he understood, no new infantry barracks in England were to be built, that battalions would be sent out to South Africa, and that there would be large depôts in England for the battalions that were being sent abroad. Where were those large depôts to be? If it was the case that some of the depôts were too large already, that would be a partial answer to his question. But there were very few such depôts, and he thought it would be found that a considerable outlay would have to be made under this scheme. He was extremely surprised to see the storehouses crop up again, because he thought that two years ago not only were the storehouses there, but all the stores were collected ready for the mobilisation of any regiment. He hoped there would not be a large expenditure on storehouses. Then with regard to rifle ranges and training grounds, he complained that these two items were lumped together in such a way that no one could see how much was spent on rifle ranges and how much on training grounds. He urged that these items should be separated, and there should be a distinct understanding as to what was being spent on rifle ranges as distinct from training grounds.

MAJOR SEELY (Isle of Wight) said that as the Secretary for War had given a pledge that there would be an opportunity afforded on Friday for fully discussing the Bill, he would content himself with asking how much money was to be spent on the hutments in South Africa; how many men and what arms of the service would be accommodated, and where were the hutments to be placed. If the right hon. Gentleman could answer these questions, which were of great interest to military men, now, a great many of the Committee would be grateful and the discussion on Friday would be much expedited.

MR. LOUGH (Islington, W.) said his experience was that if they did not take the opportunity to raise questions at once when Bills of this kind were brought in, the opportunity was never afterwards afforded. It had been stated that the Bill involved no new principle, but the constant coming to the House for loans was in itself a new principle. The situation was becoming very serious. The meaning of the Bill was that £2,500,000 was to be added to the year's Army expenditure of £34,000,000. Of that money a great deal would be used for buildings of a temporary character, which would not last for the thirty years in which the money was to be repaid. That in itself was a new departure in our system. When were these Loan Bills to end? During the past six years four of these Bills had been introduced, involving an expenditure of £20,000,000. What was the total amount required? Was it to be £50,000,000 or £100,000,000? Surely the War Office ought to be able to say—"Give us so many millions and we will be done with it." What was the use of going on with these building programmes with money so freely voted by this House? He thought now was a good time to say "We will not sanction the present demand of the Government without we are told what the total amount of that expenditure will be."

MR. BRODRICK interposed to say that unless the Resolution were agreed to it would be difficult to carry out his promise to put down the Bill on Friday.

MR. LOUGH said a Resolution of this importance should not be rushed through in that fashion. Besides, the Prime Minister had stated that the South African Loan Bill would be the first order on Friday.

And, it being half-past Seven of the clock, the Chairman left the Chair to make his Report to the House.

Committee report Progress; to sit again this evening.

EVENING SITTING.

MILITARY WORKS (CONSOLIDATED FUND).

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[MR. JEFFREYS (Hampshire, N.) in the Chair.]

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That it is expedient to make further provisions for defraying the expenses of certain Military Works and other Military Services, and to authorise the issue out of the Consolidated Fund of such sums, not exceeding £5,000,000, as may be required for those purposes, and to make provision for raising, in the manner provided by Section 2 of The Military Works Act, 1897, the sums so issued by terminable Annuities for a period not exceeding thirty years from the date of borrowing."—(*Mr. Secretary Brodrick.*)

MR. O'MARA (Kilkenny, S.) said that last year he and his hon. friend the Member for East Mayo strongly opposed this method of providing for expenditure, which went on increasing in amount; and he thought the Committee ought to be given some explanation of the increases which were being constantly asked for. The Secretary of State for War ought to inform the Committee what precisely he was asking them to commit themselves to. When the last Bill was passed, he thought they were approaching the end of such measures. He was aware that part of the money was to be employed on permanent works, but he could not feel justified in permitting that stage to pass without entering a protest. If they passed the Bill now they would be committing themselves to an expenditure of £5,000,000; and there would be no opportunity of again criticising it once the Bill was passed. This method of raising money was first introduced at the time of Lord Palmerston. Mr. Gladstone was, however, thoroughly opposed to it. It was not until after he had retired that the system was reintroduced; and since then between £30,000,000 and £40,000,000 had been spent on works of a semi-permanent character. Indeed, in many cases the payments would continue long after the works themselves had ceased to be of any use. No such measure had ever been introduced without a protest from the Irish Members, and he, therefore, would protest against it.

MR. WHITLEY said that this Resolution was a proper opportunity for criticising the financial aspect of the proposals of the Government as distinct from questions of policy. When the Resolution was once embodied in the Bill they would be somewhat severely restricted in their discussions. There were three financial points to which the attention of the Committee ought to be drawn before the Resolution was passed. The first was the method of proceeding by loan. They were getting pretty far advanced in this series of naval and military works loans, which were introduced every alternate year; and it certainly looked as if it were now to be considered an established practice that large sums, amounting to many millions of money, should be raised by loan instead of being put on the ordinary Estimates. As things went on now, it was pretty clear that when one of these loans was up in thirty years, they would still have to continue to introduce Bills of this nature, and to pile up debt in this manner. For several years Parliament had been asked to vote sums of between £7,000,000 and £8,000,000 in this way; but it would be much more satisfactory if these items were taken out of the revenues for the year instead of being raised by loan. By this method the taxpayer was asked to pay the amount twice over, because the interest for thirty years, apart from the sinking fund, would represent the original amount. In this connection they ought to examine most carefully the nature of the works for which the money was to be borrowed. They were told that a considerable part of it would be spent for building huts for the troops in South Africa. The Secretary of State did not indicate the nature of the huts; but he took it that they were to be tin and timber structures, such as they were well acquainted with in South Africa. He thought, if they were to be substantial buildings, that the right hon. Gentleman would not have used the word "huts" to describe them. At home the Local Government Board refused to allow municipal authorities to borrow money for putting up such buildings. They had to be paid for out of revenue. That being so, it was rather remarkable that the Government should ask the Committee to include buildings of this nature in a Bill which was to run for a period of thirty years. The Secretary of State said that certain huts which had been built in the Crimea during the war were still in existence; but he doubted whether the right hon. Gentleman would claim them as a national asset. The purpose for which they were erected had disappeared; and to represent them as a national asset would be an absurd idea. Another question arose in connection with these huts in South Africa. They were given to understand that at the earliest possible moment self-government would be given to the new colonies. Supposing in five years the colonies were given self-government, how would the Home Government then stand, having borrowed money on a thirty years term, and spent it on huts which would be handed over to the new Colonial Governments. It appeared to him that such an item ought not to be included in a Bill of this kind at all. It ought to be paid for out of revenue and not out of capital. Further, the right hon. Gentleman did not state the amount which was to be devoted to this purpose. These were matters on which the Committee should have accurate information before they passed the Resolution; and if it were correct that the huts were to be of a tin and timber character, he thought the amount which that item represented should be struck out.

MR. DALZIEL (Kirkcaldy Burghs) said he understood that the right hon. Gentleman had given the Committee an assurance that they would be able to discuss this question fully, probably on Friday, when the Bill would be put down as first order. If that were so, it would be a mistake to prolong the discussion now; but before the Resolution was passed he would ask how much of this money was to be annexed for Africa. He supposed the right hon. Gentleman could state exactly what was the African proportion of the expenditure.

MR. GRETTON (Derbyshire, S.) said that the right hon. Gentleman stated that a certain portion of this money was to be spent on defensive works. That opened up very large and important questions, which in the past occasioned a considerable amount of friction. He wished to know what proportion of this Vote was to be devoted to the purposes of defensive works.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE (Carnarvon Boroughs) said he wished to support the request of his hon. friend for some information as to the proportion of this Vote to be spent in South Africa. It was a very serious matter the way in which the expenditure of the country was growing by means of these extraordinary measures. They were quite a new development. When he first came to the House he did not think there were any Bills of this character; but now they were following the example of Germany and raising by loan money which really ought to be part of the current expenditure of the year. By that means they were deluding people into the belief that the expenditure of the country was not what it was. If his hon. friends would follow the Naval and Military Works Bills they would find they were practically in the nature of national expenditure, though they resolved themselves in this way into an addition to the capital expenditure of the country. These Bills were expedients which had been adopted also in France and Germany, in order to hide the real character of military expenditure from the people; and they would grow until the amount involved would assume very large proportions. Last year, another Bill was brought in called an appropriation in aid, a sort of financial jugglery to hide from the country what had been spent. Very few people had any idea of how much was being spent on the Army and Navy. Part of this expenditure was for the colonies; and when this country was called upon to spend £5,000,000 this year, £7,000,000 last year, and similar sums, he thought it was about time that the colonies contributed towards such expenditure.

MR. BRODRICK said he would answer the one or two specific questions which had been put to him. His hon. friend asked him a question as to defensive works. The defensive works were a continuation of the works already sanctioned by Parliament, such as the provision of guns for coaling stations and commercial ports. With regard to the huts to be erected in South Africa, of the £3,575,000 to be taken for barracks, £2,250,000 would be spent on huts in South Africa; but from that there must be deducted the sale of certain barracks to which he had alluded. He could not state the exact amount of the expenditure; but, roughly speaking it would be under £2,000,000, and it was anticipated that that would provide the complete accommodation necessary for the troops which it was proposed to retain in South Africa. The troops in South Africa had to have a roof over their heads. If it was proposed to reduce the force to be retained in South Africa from 30,000 men to 15,000, then no doubt this expenditure could be avoided; but if it was intended to keep the troops at their present strength in South Africa, even, for the sake of argument, for a year or two, it would be necessary to put a roof over their heads. They could not keep troops under canvas for five years together.

MR. WHITLEY asked were the huts to be timber buildings.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO THE WAR OFFICE (Lord STANLEY, (Lancashire, Westhoughton) said that the buildings were to be of iron and timber, of the kind used in South Africa by the civil population.

MR. BLACK asked to whom they were to belong.

LORD STANLEY: To the English Government.

MR. DALZIEL said that the Committee must have heard with surprise the large amount of the Vote which was to be set aside for South Africa. No one supposed it would be so large; and no case had been made out for it. As a protest he begged to move the reduction of the Vote by £1,000,000.

Amendment proposed—

"To leave out '£5,000,000,' and insert '£4,000,000.'"—(*Mr. Dalziel.*)

Question proposed, "That '£5,000,000' stand part of the Question."

MR. BUCHANAN (Perthshire, E.) said he thought his hon. friend was fully justified in the action he had taken. It had now become practically part of their regular financial procedure that large sums of money were to be borrowed year by year for expenditure, which in past years was invariably borne on the Estimates. In connection with the expenditure for barrack accommodation in South Africa it should be remembered that there was a very large increase put on the Estimates for barrack accommodation to meet the requirements of the garrison sent to South Africa. He certainly should support his hon. friend. In the Military Works Act of 1901 there was a sub-head "Barracks for foreign stations," but the total amount asked for was only £500,000, whereas now the Committee were to be asked to vote no less than £2,000,000 for the barrack accommodation and the hutting of this permanent force in South Africa. It was one of the incidental charges of the new policy of the Government, and he should certainly oppose the proposal permanently to station 25,000 men in South Africa. The right hon. Gentleman had given no explanation whatever of why, having in March last estimated 15,000 as the proper number for the permanent garrison, he had now altered the number to 25,000. Until adequate reasons had been given he should strongly oppose the new policy.

MR. BRODRICK said that on Thursday last he carefully stated the grounds on which these proposals were made. There was no question in the mind of the War Office of having more than 15,000 men as the permanent force in South Africa until the Defence Committee recommended, for the benefit of India, that a certain force should be kept permanently in South Africa for the reinforcement of India, a duty which had been admitted by successive Governments in India, but for which provision could only have been made hitherto in this country under difficulties which in certain eventualities might have proved insuperable. That was a strong reason for this addition to the force. Moreover, it would be unfair to charge the force in South Africa with the increased expenditure laid before the Committee for huts. Troops, if they existed at all, must be housed. The hon. Member seemed to have forgotten that during the last six years an addition of nearly 60,000 men had been made to the establishment of the Army, and that it would have been impossible to provide in previous Bills for the barrack accommodation of those men in this country. The works could not be carried out within the time for which the Bills were intended to run. The hon. Member might rest assured that nothing would be spent in South Africa on works which would be duplicated here. The Committee would recollect that under great pressure from Parliament, and from a sense of our inferiority in the matter of artillery, sixty or seventy batteries were added during the war, and, up to the present, accommodation for those batteries had been made only on Salisbury Plain by huts there erected. It was absolutely necessary, whether in this country or in South Africa, that provision for the accommodation of those batteries should be made, and huts could be erected in South Africa at a more reasonable cost than the permanent accommodation in this country.

MR. FULLER (Wiltshire, Westbury) asked whether he understood correctly that so far as money was spent on huts in South Africa so far there would be a reduction in the amount spent on Salisbury Plain and elsewhere in this country.

MR. BRODRICK said that was so. The hon. Member would easily understand that if the War Office attempted to build for 50,000 troops in this country eight or ten years would be necessary for the work, and a much larger sum would have to be asked for for its completion. A portion of the charge was asked for South Africa, and proportionately the charge in this country was reduced.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN (Stirling Burghs) desired to say a word in strong support of the Amendment. It was necessary that the House of Commons should put its foot down on such an occasion as a protest against the rate at which military expenditure was growing. The right hon. Gentleman no doubt could advance very plausible reasons for this great expenditure; but the country saw, and it ought to be the duty of the House of Commons to see, that a stop must be put to the growth of military expenditure. The revenue would be unequal to the burden if this expenditure was not checked, and the House of Commons must show by its action and vote that it was in earnest, even if that involved a reduction of the number of men. That really was at the bottom of the whole question, and the country must be left in no doubt as to the determination of Parliament in this respect.

*SIR JOHN COLOMB (Great Yarmouth) submitted that this was not the time for the House of Commons to put its foot down. He felt as strongly as anybody the necessity for the reduction of wasteful expenditure, but the question must be approached in a business-like spirit. Whatever was proved to be necessary he was prepared to vote for, but he was not prepared to support expenditure of which no explanation or justification was given. This question ought to be discussed when the Committee had the full facts before it; when that time came he would be prepared impartially to consider the matter, but in the meantime he thought the present stage was hardly the opportunity for the discussion of details.

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 118; Noes, 68. (Division List No 176.)

AYES.

Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Arrol, Sir William
Atkinson, Right Hon. John
Aubrey-Fletcher, Rt. Hn. Sir H.
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Baird, John George Alexander
Balcarres, Lord
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Bignold, Arthur
Bigwood, James
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Brotherton, Edward Allen
Bull, William James
Campbell, John (*Armagh, S.*)
Cavendish, V C W (*Derbysh.*)
Cecil, Evelyn (*Aston Manor*)
Charrington, Spencer
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colomb, Sir John Chas. Ready
Corbett, A. Cameron (*Glasg.*)
Cox, Irwin Edwd. Bainbridge
Crean, Eugene
Cross, Alexander (*Glasgow*)
Crossley, Rt. Hon. Sir Savile
Denny, Colonel
Dewar, Sir T. R. (*Tower Hamlets*
Dickson, Charles Scott
Doughty, George
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers
Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Ed.
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Fitzroy, Hon. Edw. Algernon
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Flower, Ernest
Forster, Henry William
Foster, Philip S. (*Warwick, S. W*
Galloway, William Johnson
Garfit, William
Godson, Sir Augustus Frederick
Gordon, Hn J E (*Elgin and Nairn*
Gore, Hn G. R. C. Ormsby-(*Salop*
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Greene, Hy. D. (*Shrewsbury*)
Gretton, John
Groves, James Grimble
Heath, James (*Staffs. N. W.*)
Helder, Augustus
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Jebb, Sir Richard Claverhouse
Johnstone, Heywood
Kenyon, Hon. G. T. (*Denbigh*
Kenyon-Slaney, Col. W. (*Salop*
Kerr, John
King, Sir Henry Seymour
Law, Andrew Bonar (*Glasgow*
Lawson, John Grant (*Yorks, N R*
Leveson-Gower, Frederick N. S.
Llewellyn, Evan Henry
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (*Bristol, S*
Lucas, Reginald J. (*Portsmouth*)
M'Iver, Sir Lewis (*Edinburgh W*
M'Killop, Jas. (*Stirlingshire*)
M'Killop, W. (*Sligo, North*)
Maxwell, Rt Hn Sir H. E (*Wigt'n*
Milvain, Thomas
Morgan, D. J. (*Walthamstow*)
Morton, Arthur H. Aylmer
Mowbray, Sir Robert Gray C.
Murray, Rt. Hn A. Graham (*Bute*
Myers, William Henry
Orr-Ewing, Charles Lindsay
Percy, Earl
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Pretyman, Ernest George
Purvis, Robert
Rattigan, Sir William Henry
Reid, James (*Greenock*)
Renshaw, Sir Charles Bine
Renwick, George
Roberts, Samuel (*Sheffield*)
Robertson, H. (*Hackney*)
Rolleston, Sir John F. L.
Ropner, Colonel Sir Robert
Rutherford, John (*Lancashire*
Rutherford, W. W. (*Liverpool*)
Samuel, Harry S. (*Limehouse*)
Scott, Sir S. (*Marylebone, W.*)
Seely, Maj. J. E. B. (*Isle of Wight*
Seton-Karr, Sir Henry
Sharpe, William Edward T.)
Shaw-Stewart, M. H. (*Renfrew*
Skewes-Cox, Thomas
Smith, Hn. W. F. D. (*Strand*)
Spear, John Ward
Stanley, Lord (*Lancs.*)
Stirling-Maxwell, Sir Jn. M.
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Talbot, Lord E. (*Chichester*)
Taylor, Austin (*East Toxteth*)
Thorburn, Sir Walter
Tomlinson, Sir Wm. Edw. M.
Valentia, Viscount
Walrond, Rt. Hon. Sir W. H.
Webb, Colonel William George
Welby, Lt.-Col. A. C. E (*Taunt'n*
Whiteley, H. (*Ashton-u.-Lyne*)
Wilson, A. Stanley (*York, E. R*
Wilson, John (*Falkirk*)
Wilson, John (*Glasgow*)
Wodehouse, Rt. Hn. E. R. (*Bath*
Worsley-Taylor, Hry. Wilson
Wylie, Alexander

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Allen, Chas. P. (*Glouc. Stroud*
Asquith, Rt. Hon. Herbt. Hy.
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Bayley, Thomas (*Derbyshire*)
Black, Alexander William
Bolton, Thomas Dolling
Brigg, John
Broadhurst, Henry
Brown, George M. (*Edinburgh*)

Burt, Thomas
Caldwell, James
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H
Causton, Richard Knight
Channing, Francis Allston
Craig, Robert Hunter (*Lanark*
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Davies, Alfred (*Carmarthen*)
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Dunn, Sir William
Emmott, Alfred
Fenwick, Charles
Foster, Sir Walter (*Derby Co.*)
Fuller, J. M. F.
Grant, Corrie
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Harmsworth, R. Leicester
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Chas. Seale-
Hope, John Deans (*Fife, West*
Horniman, Frederick John
Humphreys-Owen, Arthur C.
Joicey, Sir James
Jones, William (*Carnarvonshire*
Kearley, Hudson E.
Lambert, George
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (*Cornwall*)
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leese, Sir Jos. F. (*Accrington*)
Levy, Maurice
Lundon, W.
M'Kenna, Reginald
Markham, Arthur Basil
Morgan, J. Lloyd (*Carmarthen*
Norman, Henry
Priestley, Arthur
Rickett, J. Compton
Rigg, Richard
Runciman, Walter
Shackleton, David James
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair, John (*Forfarshire*)
Soares, Ernest J.
Taylor, Theodore C. (*Radcliffe*)
Thomas, Sir A. (*Glamorgan, E.*
Tomkinson, James
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Walton, Joseph (*Barnsley*)
Warner, Thos. Courtenay T
Wason, Eugene (*Clackmannan*)
Weir, James Galloway
White, George (*Norfolk*)
Whiteley, G. (*York, W. R.*)
Whitley, J. H. (*Halifax*)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Williams, O. (*Merioneth*)
Wilson, H. J. (*York, W. R.*)
Wilson, John (*Durham Mid*)

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Dalziel and Mr. Buchanan.

Original Question put, and agreed to.

Resolution to be reported To-morrow.

LICENSING ACTS (SCOTLAND) CONSOLIDATION AND AMENDMENT BILL.

As amended (by the Standing Committee), further considered.

Proceedings resumed on Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 25, lines 28 and 29, to leave out the words 'in that part of the premises where exciseable liquor is sold or consumed.'"—(*Sir John Leng.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Bill."

MR. CALDWELL (Lanarkshire, Mid) said this provision applied only to that part of the premises where liquor was consumed. Therefore the alterations could only be ordered in that part of the premises where liquor was consumed. That, he considered, was a most unnecessary restriction, because, obviously, sanitary arrangements were required. There were other things as well. If there was a side door or a back door the licensing authority when they came to deal with the structural alterations ought to have the whole of the premises under their jurisdiction, and they should not be limited merely to that part where liquor was sold or consumed.

*THE LORD ADVOCATE (Mr. A. GRAHAM MURRAY, Buteshire) said he could not accept the Amendment.

MR. BLACK (Banffshire) asked how was it possible under the provisions of this clause for the licensing authority to say what part of the premises should be licensed.

MR. GALLOWAY (Manchester, S.W.) pointed out that the licence-holder had more than one authority to deal with, for he had to deal not only with the licensing authority but also with the sanitary authority. Some of the licensing authorities, not only in England but in Scotland, had behaved very unreasonably to the licence-holders. [Cries of "Where?"] They had behaved so unreasonably that licence-holders were unable to put their premises in a proper sanitary condition because the licensing authority said they must not do this or that. Hon. Members opposite asked where this took place. He was much too old to quote the names of the places, for if he did they all knew what would happen at the next licensing sessions. He hoped the Lord Advocate would remain firm and not accept this Amendment, which would bring a great deal of trouble to the licence-holder, and would not achieve the object in view.

*THE SOLICITOR-GENERAL FOR SCOTLAND (Mr. SCOTT DICKSON, Glasgow, Bridgton) said an experienced licensing Court would have no difficulty in regulating the part of the premises where liquor was sold, leaving the other part of the premises to be dealt with by the other ordinary sanitary authority.

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 135; Noes, 75. (Division List, No. 177.)

AYES.

Acland-Hood, Capt. Sir A. F.
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Arrol, Sir William
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Aubrey-Fletcher, Rt. Hn. Sir H.
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Baird, John George Alexander
Balcarres, Lord
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Bignold, Arthur
Bigwood, James
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Brotherton, Edward Allen
Bull, William James
Cavendish, V. C. W. (*Derbyshire*
Cecil, Evelyn (*Aston Manor*)
Chapman, Edward
Charrington, Spencer
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Collings, Right Hon. Jesse
Colomb, Sir John Chas. Ready
Cox, Irwin Edward Bainbridge
Cross, Alexander (*Glasgow*)
Cross, H. Shepherd (*Bolton*)
Crossley, Rt. Hon. Sir Savile
Davenport, William Bromley
Delany, William
Denny, Colonel
Dewar, Sir T. R. (*Tr. Haml'ts*
Dickson, Charles Scott
Doogan, P. C.
Doughty, George
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers
Elliot, Hn. A. Ralph Douglas
Finch, Rt. Hn. George H.
Fitzroy, Hon. Edw. Algernon
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Flower, Ernest
Forster, Henry William
Foster, Philip. S (*Warwick, S. W*
Fyler, John Arthur
Galloway, William Johnson
Garfit, William
Godson, Sir Augustus Frederick
Gordon, Hn. J. E. (*Elgin & Nairn*
Gore, Hn G. R. C. Ormsby- (*Salop*
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Greene, Hy. D. (*Shrewsbury*)
Gretton, John
Groves, James Grimble
Hardy, Laurence (*Kent, Ashf'd*
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Heath, James (*Staffords. N. W.*
Helder, Augustus
Hobhouse, Rt Hn H. (*Somers't, E*
Hoult, Joseph
Howard, Jno. (*Kent, Faversham*
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Jebb, Sir Richard Claverhouse
Jeffreys, Rt. Hn. Arthur Fred
Johnstone, Heywood
Kenyon-Slaney, Col. W. (*Salop*
Kerr, John
King, Sir Henry Seymour
Law, Andrew Bonar (*Glasgow*)
Lawson, John Grant (*Yorks, N. R*
Lees, Sir Elliott (*Birkenhead*)
Leveson-Gower, Frederick N. S.
Llewellyn, Evan Henry
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (*Bristol, S*
Lucas, Reg'ld J. (*Portsmouth*)
M'Arthur, Charles (*Liverpool*)
M'Iver, Sir Lewis (*Edinburgh W*
M'Killop, James (*Stirlingshire*
M'Killop, W. (*Sligo, North*)
Maxwell Rt Hn Sir H. E. (*Wigt'n*
Milvain, Thomas
Morgan, D. J. (*Walthamstow*)
Morgan, Hn. F. (*Monm'thsh.*)
Morrell, George Herbert
Morton, Arthur H. Aylmer
Mowbray, Sir Robert Gray C.
Murray, Rt Hn A. Graham (*Bute*
Murray, Chas. J. (*Coventry*)
Myers, William Henry
Nolan, Joseph (*Louth, S.*)
O'Dowd, John
Orr-Ewing, Charles Lindsay
Percy, Earl
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Pretyman, Ernest George
Purvis, Robert
Rattigan, Sir William Henry
Reid, James (*Greenock*)
Renshaw, Sir Charles Bine
Renwick, George
Ritchie, Rt. Hn. C. Thomson
Roberts, Samuel (*Sheffield*)
Robertson, Herbert (*Hackney*)
Rolleston, Sir John F. L.
Ropner, Colonel Sir Robert
Rutherford, John (*Lancashire*
Rutherford, W. W. (*Liverpool*)
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford
Samuel, Harry S. (*Limehouse*)
Scott, Sir S. (*Marylebone, W.*)
Seely, Maj. J. E. B. (*Isle of Wight*
Seton-Karr, Sir Henry
Shaw-Stewart, M. H. (*Renfrew*
Smith, James Parker (*Lanarks.*
Spear, John Ward
Stanley, Lord (*Lancs.*)
Stirling-Maxwell, Sir John M.
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Talbot, Lord E. (*Chichester*)
Taylor, Austin (*East Toxteth*)
Thorburn, Sir Walter
Tollemache, Henry James
Tomlinson, Sir Wm. E. M.
Valentia, Viscount
Vincent, Sir Edgar (*Exeter*)
Walrond, Rt. Hn. Sir Wm. H.
Webb, Colonel William George
Welby, Lt-Col. A. C. E. (*Taunton*)
Whiteley, H (*Ashton und. Lyne*
Wilson, A. Stanley (*York, E. R.*
Wilson, John (*Falkirk*)
Wilson, John (*Glasgow*)
Wodehouse, Rt. Hn. E. R. (*Bath*
Wylie, Alexander

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Anstruther and Mr. Fellowes.

NOES.

Allen, Chas. P. (*Glos., Stroud*)
Asher, Alexander
Asquith, Rt. Hon. Herbt. Hy.
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Bayley, Thomas (*Derbyshire*)
Bolton, Thomas Dolling
Brigg, John
Broadhurst, Henry
Brown, George M. (*Edinburgh*)
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Burt, Thomas
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Channing, Francis Allston
Corbett, A. Cameron (*Glasgow*)
Craig, Robert Hunter (*Lanark*
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, Alfred (*Carmarthen*)
Duncan, J. Hastings
Dunn, Sir William
Emmott, Alfred
Fenwick, Charles
Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmund
Foster, Sir Walter (*Derby Co.*
Fuller, J. M. F.
Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herbert J.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Harmsworth, R. Leicester
Hope, John Deans (*Fife, West*
Horniman, Frederick John
Humphreys-Owen, Arthur C.
Jacoby, James Alfred
Joicey, Sir James
Jones, Wm. (*Carnarvonshire*)
Kearley, Hudson E.
Lambert, George
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (*Cornwall*)
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leese, Sir Jos. F. (*Accrington*)
Leigh, Sir Joseph
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
M'Laren, Sir Charles Benj.
Markham, Arthur Basil
Morgan, J. Lloyd (*Carmarthen*)
Partington, Oswald
Priestley, Arthur
Rickett, J. Compton
Rigg, Richard
Runciman, Walter
Samuel, Herbt. L. (*Cleveland*)
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Charles E. (*Stafford*)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair, John (*Forfarshire*)
Soares, Ernest J.
Taylor, Theodore C. (*Radcliffe*)
Thomas, Sir A. (*Glam., E.*)
Tomkinson, James
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Walton, Joseph (*Barnsley*)

Warner, Thos. Courtenay T.
Wason, Eugene (*Calkmannan*)
Wason, John Cathcart (*Orkney*
Weir, James Galloway
White, George (*Norfolk*)
Whiteley, G. (*York, W. R.*)
Whitley, J. H. (*Halifax*)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Williams, O. (*Merioneth*)
Wilson, H. J. (*York, W. R.*)
Woodhouse, Sir J. T. (*Hud'sfi'ld*
Wilson, John (*Durham, Mid*)

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Caldwell and Mr. Black.

MR. CALDWELL moved the Amendment on the Paper standing in the name of the hon. Member for Dundee. He looked upon this provision as a very unreasonable one. If the licensing authority made any order with reference to structural alterations there was a power of appeal, and therefore the licence holder was sufficiently protected. He thought the period of five years was a very long one, because it would tie the hands of the licensing authority for that period from ordering any small alterations. The result would be that the licensing authorities would be inclined to order larger alterations than they otherwise would, because they would not be able to order any more alterations for a period of five years. Again, by putting in this restriction they practically suggested to the licensing authority that at the end of every five years there should be an overhauling of the premises. He did not think this provision would be to the advantage of the licence holders, and he begged to move.

Amendment proposed to the Bill.

"In page 25, line 30, to leave out from the word 'Act,' to the end of line 34."—(*Mr. Caldwell.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Bill."

*MR. A. GRAHAM MURRAY said he could not accept this Amendment. The House would remember that in the case of a new certificate the licensing Court were absolute masters of the situation, and they could mould the plans as they wished. The argument that the licensing Courts were not always the same persons in his opinion cut the other way. It was because they were not always the same, and because licence-holders should not be subjected to the idiosyncrasies of other persons, that this restriction should be allowed. There were many things in which they were allowed to change their mind. It was possible for Mid Lanark to have a new Member at the end of seven years. He could scarcely imagine that such a thing was possible, but if it were it would not be a structural alteration.

MR. BLACK hoped the Lord Advocate would not put the House to the necessity of going to a division upon this question. If the licensing authority desired to have some further alterations they might say, "Unless you make these alterations you shall not have your licence." Surely the right hon. Gentleman had confidence in his own licensing authority.

MR. GROVES (Salford, S.) urged the Lord Advocate not to accept this Amendment.

MR. HUNTER CRAIG (Lanarkshire, Govan) said this was one of the restrictive clauses which the Lord Advocate had introduced into the measure. The right hon. Gentleman had not made out a case for the rejection of the Amendment. In his experience as a justice of peace, he had never heard that it was a grievance that the licensing anthority should, on an application for renewal, have power to inspect the premises, and if necessary order structural alterations. The proposal in the Bill was certainly a retrograde step. It was really tying the hands of the licensing authority in such a way as had never been done before. He really thought that the Lord Advocate, as a Scotch representative, should have a higher opinion of the Scotch licensing authorities. He sincerely hoped the Amendment would be accepted.

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 153; Noes, 85. (Division List, No. 178.)

AYES

Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Anstruther, H. T.
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Arrol, Sir William
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Aubrey-Fletcher, Rt. Hn. Sir H.
Bailey, James (*Walworth*)
Bain, Colonel James Robert

Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (*Manch'r*
Balfour, Kenneth R. (*Christch.*
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bignold, Arthur
Bigwood, James
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Brotherton, Edward Allen
Bull, William James
Butcher, John George
Cavendish, V. C. W. (*Derbyshire*
Cecil, Evelyn (*Aston Manor*)
Chapman, Edward
Charrington, Spencer
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Collings, Right Hon. Jesse
Colomb, Sir John Charles Ready
Cook, Sir Frederick Lucas
Cox, Irwin Edwd. Bainbridge
Cross, Herb. Shepherd (*Bolton*)
Crossley, Rt. Hon. Sir Savile
Davenport, William Bromley-
Denny, Colonel
Devlin, Joseph (*Kilkenny, N.*)
Dewar, Sir T. R. (*Tr. Haml'ts*
Dickson, Charles Scott
Doughty, George
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers
Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fitzroy, Hon. Edw. Algernon
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Flower, Ernest
Forster, Henry William
Foster, Philip S. (*Warwick, S. W.*
Fyler, John Arthur
Galloway, William Johnson
Garfit, William
Gibbs, Hn. Vicary (*St. Albans*
Godson, Sir Augustus Fredk.
Gordon, Hn. J. E. (*Elgin & Nairn*
Gore, Hn G. R. C. Ormsby- (*Salop*
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Greene, Hy. D. (*Shrewsbury*)
Gretton, John
Greville, Hon. Ronald
Groves, James Grimble
Hamilton, Rt Hn Ld. G. (*Midx*
Hardy, Laurence (*Kent, Ashfd*
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Heath, James (*Staffords, N. W.*
Helder, Augustus
Hobhouse, Rt Hon H (*Som'rs't, E*
Hoult, Joseph
Howard, Jno (*Kent, Faver'hm*
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Jebb, Sir Richard Claverhouse
Jeffreys, Rt. Hn. Arthur Fred
Johnstone, Heywood
Kenyon, Hon. G. T. (*Denbigh*
Kenyon-Slaney, Col. W. (*Salop*)
Kerr, John
King, Sir Henry Seymour
Law, Andrew Bonar (*Glasgow*)
Lawson, John Grant (*York, N. R*
Lees, Sir Elliott (*Birkenhead*)
Leveson-Gower Frederick N. S
Llewellyn, Evan Henry
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (*Bristol, S.*
Lucas, Reginald J. (*Portsmouth*
M'Arthur, Charles (*Liverpool*)
M'Iver, Sir Lewis (*Edinburgh W*
M'Killop, James (*Stirlingshire*)
M'Killop, W. (*Sligo, North*)
Maxwell, Rt Hn Sir H. E (*Wig'n.*
Milvain, Thomas
Montagu, G. (*Huntingdon*)
Montagu, Hon. J. Scott (*Hants*
Morgan, David J (*Walthamstow*
Morgan, Hn. F. (*Monm'thsh.*)
Morrell, George Herbert
Morton, Arthur H. Aylmer
Mowbray, Sir Robert Gray C.
Murray, Chas. J. (*Coventry*)
Murray, Col. Wyndham (*Bath*)
Myers, William Henry
Nolan, Joseph (*Louth, S.*)
O'Brien, Patrick (*Kilkenny*)
O'Dowd, John
Orr-Ewing, Charles Lindsay
Palmer, Walter (*Salisbury*)
Percy, Earl
Pretyman, Ernest George
Purvis, Robert
Rattigan, Sir William Henry
Reid, James (*Greenock*)
Renshaw, Sir Charles Bine
Renwick, George
Ritchie, Rt. Hn. Chas. Thomson
Roberts, Samuel (*Sheffield*)
Robertson, Herbert (*Hackney*
Rolleston, Sir John F. L.
Ropner, Colonel Sir Robert
Rutherford, John (*Lancashire*)
Rutherford, W. W. (*Liverpool*)
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford
Sadler, Col. Samuel Alexander
Samuel, Harry S. (*Limehouse*)
Scott, Sir S. (*Marylebone, W.*)
Seely, Chas. Hilton (*Lincoln*)
Seely, Maj J. E. B. (*Isle of Wight*
Shaw-Stewart, M. H. (*Renfrew*
Smith, James Parker (*Lanarks.*
Smith, Hn. W. F. D. (*Strand*)
Spear, John Ward
Stanley, Lord (*Lancs.*)
Stirling-Maxwell, Sir Jn. M.
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
Talbot, Lord E. (*Chichester*)
Talbot, Rt. Hn. J. G. (*Oxf d Univ*
Taylor, Austin (*East Toxteth*)
Thorburn, Sir Walter
Tollemache, Henry James
Tomlinson, Sir Wm. Edw. M.
Valentia, Viscount
Vincent, Sir Edgar (*Exeter*)
Walrond, Rt. Hn. Sir William H
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Webb, Colonel William George
Welby, Lt.-Col A. C. E. (*Taunton*
Whiteley, H. (*Ashton und. Lyne*
Wilson, A. Stanley (*York, E. R.*
Wilson, John (*Glasgow*)
Wodehouse, Rt. Hn. E. R. (*Bath*)
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart
Wylie, Alexander

Tellers for the Ayes—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Mr. Fellowes.

NOES.

Allen, Chas. P. (*Glos., Stroud*)
Asher, Alexander
Asquith, Rt. Hon. Herbt. Hy.
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Bayley, Thomas (*Derbyshire*)
Black, Alexander William
Bolton, Thomas Dolling
Brigg, John
Broadhurst, Henry
Brown, George M. (*Edinburgh*)
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Burt, Thomas
Caldwell, James
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Channing, Francis Allston
Corbett, A. Cameron (*Glasg.*)
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Crooks, William
Cross, Alexander (*Glasgow*)
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, Alfred (*Carmarthen*)
Duncan, J. Hastings
Dunn, Sir William
Edwards, Frank
Emmott, Alfred
Farquharson, Dr. Robert
Fenwick, Charles
Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmund
Foster, Sir Walter (*Derby Co.*)
Fuller, J. M. F.
Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herbert J.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Harmsworth, R. Leicester
Hope, John Deans (*Fife, West*)
Horniman, Frederick John
Humphreys-Owen, Arthur C.
Jacoby, James Alfred
Joicey, Sir James
Jones, William (*Carnarvonshire*
Kearley, Hudson E.
Lambert, George
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (*Cornwall*)
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leese, Sir Jos. F. (*Accrington*)
Leigh, Sir Joseph
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
M'Arthur, William (*Cornwall*)
M'Laren, Sir Charles Benjamin
Markham, Arthur Basil
Morgan, J. Lloyd (*Carmarthen*)
Norman, Henry
Partington, Oswald
Pirie, Duncan V.
Priestley, Arthur
Rickett, J. Compton
Rigg, Richard
Roberts, John H. (*Denbighs.*)
Robson, William Snowdon
Runciman, Walter
Samuel, Herbert L. (*Cleveland*

Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Charles E. (*Stafford*)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair, John (*Forfarshire*)
Soares, Ernest J.
Spencer, Rt Hn C. R. (*Northants*
Taylor, Theodore C. (*Radcliffe*)
Tomkinson, James
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Walton, Joseph (*Barnsley*)
Wason, John Cathcart (*Orkney*
Weir, James Galloway
White, George (*Norfolk*)
Whiteley, G. (*York, W. R.*)
Whitley, J. H. (*Halifax*)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Williams, Osmond (*Merioneth*)
Wilson, H. J. (*York, W. R.*)
Wilson, John (*Durham, Mid*)
Wilson, John (*Falkirk*)
Woodhouse, Sir J T (*Huddersf'd*

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
Mr. Eugene Wason and
Mr. Hunter Craig.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 26, line 19, to leave out the word 'licence.'"—(*Mr. Shaw-Stewart.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 26, line 19, after the word 'holder,' to insert the words 'of any form of certificate.'"—(*Mr. Shaw-Stewart.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 27, to leave out Clause 45."—(*The Lord Advocate.*)

Amendment agreed to.

MR. PARKER SMITH (Lanarkshire, Partick) said he would not move the following Amendment, of which he had given notice—

"In page 29, line 5, after the word 'than,' to insert the word 'half.'"—(*Mr. Parker Smith.*)

MR. CALDWELL said he would move the Amendment standing in the hon. Member's name. The law in Scotland for the last seventy-five years had been that any quantity of spirituous liquor, more than half a pint, must be sold by Imperial standard measure. What the Bill proposed was to alter that law in order that what was known in Scotland as a "schooner"—a quantity between a half and a whole pint—might be legalised, the Court of Session having by a unanimous decision declared that it was an illegal standard of measurement, which could not be sold. The law in Scotland in regard to this matter was the same as the law in England and Ireland, and therefore he thought the House should have some explanation why it was proposed to make a change of this kind. He begged to move.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 29, line 5, after the word 'than' to insert the word 'half.'"—(*Mr. Caldwell.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'half' be there inserted in the Bill."

*MR. A. GRAHAM MURRAY hoped the House would re-affirm the decision of the Committee. The hon. Member had stated what had been the law of Scotland for seventy-five years, but it was only found out to be the law of Scotland last summer, when, by a decision of the Court, it was declared that not only a "schooner" but an ordinary pint bottle was illegal. Therefore it was absolutely necessary to bring in a clause in order to save the "schooner." Why should the hon. Member for Mid Lanark desire to sink the "schooner," which, as a matter of fact, was a charming beer measure. From the temperance point of view it was better to allow people to have two-thirds of a pint, because if they had to choose between a half and a whole pint, they would probably select the larger measure.

*MR. JOHN WILSON (Glasgow, St. Rollox) said, being connected with a shipping community, he wished to support the "schooner."

Question put, and negatived.

*MR. A. GRAHAM MURRAY said the series of Amendments standing next in his name on the Paper were rendered necessary by the fact that the Summary Procedure Act was passed long after the Home Drummond Act. They were really no more than drafting Amendments. The reason why they were not made in the Consolidation Bill was because he gave a personal undertaking to the Committee upstairs that the Bill as produced was really no more than, if he might so express it, the putting together of the various Acts now in operation.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 29, line 22, to leave out from the word 'in' to the word 'within,' in line 23, and insert the words 'default of payment'"—(*The Lord Advocate.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 29, line 25, to leave out the word 'of,' and insert the words 'not exceeding.'" —(*The Lord Advocate.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 29, line 32, to leave out from the word 'in' to the word 'within' in line 33, and insert the words 'default of payment.'"—(*The Lord Advocate.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 29 line 35, to leave out the words 'of two calendar,' and insert the words 'not exceeding two.'"—(*The Lord Advocate.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 29, line 41, to leave out from the word 'in' to the word 'within' on page 30, line 1, and insert the words 'default of payment.'"—(*The Lord Advocate.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 30, line 3, to leave out the words 'of four calendar,' and insert the words 'not exceeding four.'"—(*The Lord Advocate.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 30, line 7, to leave out from the word 'null' to end of clause.'"—(*The Lord Advocate.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 33, line 21, to leave out from the word 'therein' to the word 'shall' in line 24." —(*The Lord Advocate.*)

Amendment agreed to.

MR. GRETTON (Derbyshire, S.) said that he had an Amendment on the Paper to leave out Clause 62, which prohibited the collection of rates and taxes on licensed premises. The Amendment was of some importance in country districts, because in such counties as Argyllshire, Inverness-shire, and Aberdeen, it would be found very inconvenient to prohibit the collection of rates and taxes in the local inn. There was no recommendation in favour of this clause in the Report of the Royal Commission, and, on the other hand, the insertion of such a clause had been opposed by several County Councils and other rating authorities.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 34, to leave out Clause 62."—(*Mr. Gretton.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out to the word 'or' in line 3, stand part of the Bill."

MR. CROMBIE (Kincardineshire) said he hoped the Lord Advocate would stand by this clause, which was carried in the Committee without a division. Why should the rates and taxes be paid in a public house? He could quote a number of English Acts which prevented meetings in public houses. Moreover, Scotch Acts laid down that the schoolrooms should always be open for public purposes.

*MR. A. GRAHAM MURRAY said that in Committee he had expressed himself as unfavourable to the clause, but as he gathered that the sense of the Committee was for it he did not divide against it. The clause was a counsel of perfection, but he did not believe it would have any influence on the cause of temperance at all, while it would cause considerable inconvenience in some country districts. It was not a matter on which he felt strongly, and though personally he would vote for taking the clause out, he would leave the decision of the question to the House.

*MR. WEIR (Ross and Cromarty) said he had never heard such nonsense as was talked by the mover of the Amendment. (Cries of "Order.")

*MR. SPEAKER: That is a remark that ought not to be applied to any hon. Member.

*MR. WEIR said that the hon. Gentlemen knew absolutely nothing about Argyllshire or Buteshire, or Ross and Cromarty. If he knew these parts of the country he would also know that every schoolhouse was available for the collection of the rates and taxes, and if the schoolhouse was inconvenient every crofter's and fisherman's house would be available for the purpose. He was surprised at the Lord Advocate, who was a Highland Member, saying what he did say, and he trusted that hon. Members would not be led by one who did not know anything about the Highlands.

SIR CHARLES RENSHAW (Renfrew, W.) said he was surprised at the attitude adopted by the Lord Advocate. Anyone acquainted with the habits of the people and the sentiments of the local authorities in Scotland knew that they regarded the collection of rates and taxes in public houses with more than dislike. He was in very close touch with several local authorities, and he had not had a single objection to the clause. Having regard to the large number of public places which could be used in every part of Scotland for the collection of rates, he was strongly of opinion that the clause ought to be retained.

*SIR HERBERT MAXWELL (Wigtonshire) said that his hon. friend who had spoken last represented a populous county, whereas he (Sir Herbert Maxwell) represented a sparsely populated one. He had received very strong representations indeed as to the inconvenience which would be caused in many parts of the south-west of Scotland by this clause if it were retained in the Bill. Whatever might be the case in the Highlands, in some parts of the Lowlands the only place available for the collection of rates and taxes was the inn.

*MR. SCOTT DICKSON said he hoped that the House would not be led away by the remarks of the hon. Baronet the Member for Renfrewshire. This was not a large question, but it had really come to the knowledge of the Government that in quite a number of counties this clause would cause the utmost inconvenience. It had been the practice in many counties, such as Argyllshire, to use an inn for the purpose of collecting rates and taxes, and he did not know that any evil results had followed.

MR. HALDANE (Haddingtonshire) said two objections had been made to this clause; firstly, that it would cause inconvenience, and secondly, that it cast somewhat of a slur on the owners of licensed premises. Nobody wanted to cast any slur on these persons, but experience showed that when money was taken in considerable amounts into licensed premises, it was spent there. [Cries of "Oh, oh!"] The temptation was to spend the money in drink, and that was why the payment of wages in public houses was illegal. He did feel that it would be a retrograde step to reverse the unanimous decision of the Committee and strike out the clause. The Lord Advocate had spoken dubiously about it, although the Solicitor-General supported the deletion of the clause with greater courage. Where was the inconvenience? Every school in every parish in Scotland was available for the collection of rates and taxes, and wherever they went in Scotland, even in the most sparsely-populated districts, they would find either a school or some building which was used for the transaction of public business. Moreover, he knew a great many parishes in Scotland where there was not a single public house. He should extremely regret if the clause were struck out.

MR. JOHN WILSON (Falkirk Burghs) said he felt greatly disappointed to hear the Lord Advocate lending the weight of his countenance to this clause being excised from the Bill. His Lordship knew as well as he did that the law prohibited the payment of wages in public-houses. He thought the Government would find that in a great many cases the taxes, instead of being paid to the collector, would be melted in the public-house.

SIR LEWIS McIVER (Edinburgh, W.) said he admitted that mischief might follow if the collection of rates and taxes in licensed houses were generally practised, but it would only take place in sparsely populated districts, where other convenient buildings were not available. He could speak with authority that the clause would cause inconvenience in his own county (Ross and Cromarty). He ventured to submit that, although the right hon. and learned Member for Haddingtonshire had spoken of the facilities given for the collection of rates and taxes in schools, it had not been suggested that any wickedness or evil had followed from the practice of paying rates and taxes in the village inn. If they admitted the arguments used in favour of the clause, there was hardly any conceivable ground on which they could not deny the right of going into a place of public entertainment.

MR. DALZIEL (Kirkcaldy Burghs) said that the hon. Baronet had told the Committee truly that this clause would only apply to certain parts of Scotland. What was the case in the hon. Baronet's own county, Ross and Cromarty? In the Island of Lewis, if the rates and taxes were collected in a public-house, the people would have often to walk more than forty-five miles.

SIR LEWIS McIVER said he had never suggested that it should be made compulsory to pay rates and taxes in public-houses.

MR. DALZIEL said at the present time accommodation was found for the collection of rates without calling in the public-house or the aid of the publican. Even if a school or a public hall were not available, there was always a private house at which it was generally known the collector would attend. He expressed his extreme surprise that the Lord Advocate, who had been so wise, on the whole, in supporting many important points in Committee, should have, on the slightest suggestion of an English Member, run away from the unanimous decision of the Committee. He thought if ever there was a question which ought to be left to the decision of the Scottish Members it was this. They knew perfectly well that if the Lord Advocate went into a particular lobby it would have an important effect on a large number of hon. Members who had not heard the debate. It was not fair of the Lord Advocate at this stage of the Bill to run away from the decision of the Committee and get out of it by throwing the responsibility upon hon. Members who had not heard the debate. He should prefer that the Lord Advocate should make himself responsible for the clause as it stood in the Bill. The clause was the work of a Committee, practically appointed by the Lord Advocate, and was unanimously adopted by them.

*MR. A. GRAHAM MURRAY observed that he had nothing to do with the appointment of the Committee.

MR. DALZIEL said he referred to the form of the Committee. They desired a Scotch Committee, but the Lord Advocate opposed that, and the Committee was formed on the lines he laid down. That Committee had unanimously decided in favour of this clause, and he held that they ought to have had from the Lord Advocate some leading on the question. If the Lord Advocate followed the decision of the Committee he would be acting in consonance with the views of the great majority of Scotch Members.

SIR J. FERGUSSON (Manchester, N.E.) said the point involved was a very small one. As a Scotchman, having a large acquaintance with Scotch business, he was at a loss to understand why it was thought to be a shocking thing to perform a public act in a licensed house. He had been accustomed all his life to doing county business, and, as often as not, the bodies of which he was a member had transacted business in a licensed house. What could be more convenient than that they should obtain refreshment and luncheon there? It was altogether surprising to him that some people should look upon a licensed house as an evil *per se.* He knew something about Scotch opinion, and he could assure the House that it was a great exaggeration and mistake to suppose that Scotchmen thought it shocking to transact business in a licensed house, which was often the most convenient place for that purpose.

MR. BLACK said he would like to know whether the objections to this clause originated with the publicans. They had a very shrewd idea of the source from which the objections came. This was really a question of compelling persons to visit public-houses whether they liked to do so or not, and if a collector elected to collect the rates in public-houses men and ladies would have to go there to pay their rates whether they liked it or not. There were three classes for whom this would not be good. First, there was a large class for whom it was positively dangerous to go into a public-house, because of the temptation they could not withstand; secondly, there were those who had conscientious objections to visiting public-houses because of the pledges they had taken against indulging in intoxicating liquors; and thirdly, there were those, no doubt very weak and foolish, who felt that in the public-house they must do something for the good of the house. There was an opinion prevalent in Scotland that if anybody went into a place of entertainment they must take something. Every hon. Member from Scotland knew that few men who were not teetotallers visited a public house without taking something. He would therefore emphasise the fact that people would be compelled to go to public-houses, and he sincerely hoped that the House would retain the clause as it stood.

MR. ALEXANDER CROSS (Glasgow, Camlachie) remarked that the House was now asked to reverse the decision of its own Committee, which, having considered the Bill, had arrived at a certain conclusion. The clause was not even challenged by that Committee, and he considered it would be a most unusual and improper course for the House to take if it struck out the clause unless grave cause could be shown for such action. The right hon. Gentleman the Member for Manchester had spoken about business being conducted in public-houses. He (Mr. Ross) had some experience of that, and he and all who were acquainted with money dealings in country places deplored that such dealings should be conducted in public-houses at all. There was a practice by which a man took something for the good of the house, whether or not he was inclined to do so. What would be the circumstances in which rates would be paid in this case? A crowd of persons would assemble to pay rates. The collector would sit in a public-house, and he could only deal with one at a time, while the others who were waiting their turn would be drinking at the bar. He submitted that it was the duty of the House to endeavour, so far as it could, to put no facilities in the way of men who were disposed to take liquor when they should not do so. It was unreasonable and improper to ask ratepayers to stand about in public-houses waiting for the opportunity to pay their rates.

*MR. JOHN WILSON (Glasgow, St. Rollox) strongly opposed the omission of the clause. He knew that it was not only in remote districts that rates were paid in public-houses, because the same thing occurred in his own district, the village of Drymen, where there were two public halls and a schoolhouse that could be used for the purpose.

MR. THEODORE TAYLOR (Lancashire, Radcliffe) said that the whole tendency of public thought in Great Britain had been against the holding of public meetings in public-houses. They had an example of that in the Corrupt Practices Act, which made it unlawful to hold any political meeting in a public-house. Scotland was not behind England in this sentiment, and there were many people who were not bigoted teetotallers who did not wish to give advantages to public-houses in this respect. As one who served as a member of the Committee which discussed this Bill, and as one who wished the Bill well, he earnestly appealed to the Government to allow the clause to remain. There were many men whose wills were weak, or whose mental calibre was deficient, to whom it was a risk to go into a public-house, and they ought not to compel people to attend public-houses wherever there was another place at which public money could be received. The clause was inserted in the Bill in Committee without opposition, and those who had supported the Government in the Bill hoped that the Government would not prejudice this clause by throwing their weight against it. They hoped that Scotch Members would be allowed to have their own way in this matter, for if Scotch Members were polled there would be a large majority in favour of the clause remaining.

MR. CORBETT (Glasgow, Tradeston) joined in the appeal made by Scotch Members to the Government. The feeling of those who believed in the disadvantages attached to the collection of rates in public-houses was based on the belief that serious mischief might be, and sometimes was, done. The argument on the other side was entirely one of local convenience. If there were any great principle involved it might be too much for them to ask English Members to set aside their own view; but as there was no such principle involved, he thought they might be asked not to join issue with the great majority of Scotch Members.

MR. PIRIE (Aberdeen, N.) trusted that the Lord Advocate would not press the opinion of the trade against that of Scotch Members. Scotch opinion was emphatically in favour of the clause remaining a part of the Bill. He had received representation after representation from his constituents on the subject while the Bill was in Committee, and he asked English Members to pay some attention to Scotch opinion. Scotch Members should be allowed to manage their own affairs to the best interests of their own country.

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 149; Noes, 104. (Division List No. 179.)

AYES.

Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Allen, Chas. P. (*Glouc., Stroud*)
Arrol, Sir William
Asher, Alexander
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Baird, John George Alexander
Balfour, Kenneth R. (*Christch.*
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Bayley, Thomas (*Derbyshire*)
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bignold, Arthur
Bill, Charles
Black, Alexander William
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bolton, Thomas Dolling
Brigg, John
Broadhurst, Henry
Brotherton, Edward Allen
Brown, George M. (*Edinburgh*)
Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Bull, William James
Burt, Thomas
Butcher, John George
Caldwell, James
Channing, Francis Allston
Charrington, Spencer
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Cochrane, Hon. Thomas H. A. E.
Corbett, A. Cameron (*Glasgow*
Craig, Robert Hunter (*Lanark*
Cremer, William Randal
Cross, Alexander (*Glasgow*)
Cross, Herb. Shepherd (*Bolton*
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, Alfred (*Carmarthen*)
Denny, Colonel
Doughty, George
Duncan, J. Hastings
Dunn, Sir William
Edwards, Frank
Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas
Evans, Samuel T. (*Glamorgan*)
Farquharson, Dr. Robert
Fenwick, Charles
Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmund
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Foster, Sir Walter (*Derby Co.*
Fuller, J. M. F.
Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herbert J.
Godson, Sir Augustus Frederick
Gordon, Hn. J. E (*Elgin & Nairn*
Grey, Rt. Hn. Sir E. (*Berwick*
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Harmsworth, R. Leicester
Harwood, George
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Charles Seale-
Hobhouse, Rt Hn H (*Somrst E*
Hope, John Deans (*Fife, West*)
Horniman, Frederick John
Hoult, Joseph
Humphreys-Owen, Arthur C.
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jebb, Sir Richard Claverhouse
Jeffreys, Rt. Hn. Arthur Fred.
Johnstone, Heywood
Joicey, Sir James
Jones, William (*Carnarv'nshire*
Kearley, Hudson E.
Lambert, George
Law, Andrew Bonar (*Glasgow*)
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (*Cornwall*)
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leese, Sir Jos. F. (*Accrington*)
Leigh, Sir Joseph
Leveson-Gower, Frederick N. S.
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Llewellyn, Evan Henry
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Lough, Thomas
Maconochie, A. W.
M'Arthur, Charles (*Liverpool*)
M'Arthur William (*Cornwall*)
M'Killop, Jas. (*Stirlingshire*)
Markham, Arthur Basil
Montagu, Hon. J. Scott (*Hants.*)
Morgan, J. Lloyd (*Carmarthen*)
Myers, William Henry
Norman, Henry
O'Dowd, John
Orr-Ewing, Charles Lindsay
Parkes, Ebenezer
Partington, Oswald
Peel, Hn. Wm Robert Wellesley
Philipps, John Wynford
Pirie, Duncan V.
Priestley, Arthur
Rattigan, Sir William Henry
Reid, James (*Greenock*)
Rickett, J. Compton
Rigg, Richard
Roberts, John H. (*Denbighs.*)
Robson, William Snowdon
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rose, Charles Day
Runciman, Walter
Samuel, Herbert L. (*Cleveland*
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Charles E. (*Stafford*)
Shaw-Stewart, M. H. (*Renfrew*
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair, John (*Forfarshire*)
Sinclair, Louis (*Romford*)
Smith, Jas. Parker (*Lanarks.*)
Soares, Ernest J.
Spear, John Ward
Spencer, Rt. Hn. C.R. (*Northants*
Stirling-Maxwell, Sir Jno. M.
Sturt, Hn. Humphrey Napier
Talbot, Rt. Hn. J. G. *Ox'd Univ.*
Taylor, Austin (*East Toxteth*
Taylor, Theodore C. (*Radcliffe*)
Tennant, Harold John
Thorburn, Sir Walter
Tomkinson, James
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Tritton, Charles Ernest
Vincent, Sir Edgar (*Exeter*)
Warner, Thos. Courtenay T.
Wason, Eugene (*Clackmannan*)
Wason, J. Cathcart (*Orkney*)
Weir, James Galloway
Welby, Lt.-Col. A. C. E (*Taunton*
White, George (*Norfolk*)
Whiteley, G. (*York, W. R.*)
Whitley, J. H. (*Halifax*)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Williams, O. (*Merioneth*)
Wilson, H. J. (*York, W. R.*)
Wilson, John (*Durham, Mid*)
Wilson, John (*Falkirk*)
Wilson, John (*Glasgow*)
Wodehouse, Rt. Hn. E. R (*Bath*
Woodhouse, Sir J T. (*Huddersf'd*
Wylie, Alexander

TELLERS FOR THE AYES — Sir Charles Renshaw and Mr. Crombie.

NOES.

Acland-Hood, Capt. Sir A. F.
Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Anstruther, H. T.
Aubrey-Fletcher, Rt. Hn. Sir H.
Bailey, James (*Walworth*)
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Capt. C. B. (*Hornsey*)
Balfour, Rt. Hn. G. W. (*Leeds*
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Cavendish, V. C. W. (*Derbyshire*
Cecil, Evelyn (*Aston Manor*)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J. (*Birm.*
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colomb, Sir John Charles Ready
Cook, Sir Frederick Lucas
Crossley, Rt. Hon. Sir Savile
Cullinan, J.
Davenport, William Bromley
Devlin, Joseph (*Kilkenny, N.*)
Dewar, Sir T. R. (*Tr. Haml'ts*
Dickson, Charles Scott
Doogan, P. C.
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
Fergusson, Rt. Hn. Sir J (*Manc'r*
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Fitzroy, Hon. Edw. Algernon
Flower, Ernest
Forster, Henry William
Foster, Philip S. (*Warwick, S. W*
Fyler, John Arthur
Galloway, William Johnson
Garfit, William
Gibbs, Hn. Vicary (*St. Albans*
Gore, Hn G. R. C. Ormsby-(*Salop*
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Greene, Henry D. (*Shrewsbury*)
Greville, Hon. Ronald
Groves, James Grimble
Hambro, Charles Eric
Hamilton, Rt Hn Lord G. (*Mid'x*
Hardy, Laurence (*Kent, Ashf'd*
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Hatch, Ernest Frederick George
Heath, James (*Staffords., N. W.*
Henderson, Sir Alexander
Howard, Jno (*Kent, Faver'hm*
Hudson, George Bickersteth)
Kenyon-Slaney, Col. W. (*Salop*)
Kerr, John
King, Sir Henry Seymour
Lawson, John Grant (*Yorks N R*
Lees, Sir Elliott (*Birkenhead*)
Lowther, C. (*Cumb. Eskdale*)
Lucas, Reginald J. (*Portsmouth*)
M'Iver, Sir Lewis (*Edinburgh W*
M'Killop, W. (*Sligo, North*)
Martin, Richard Biddulph
Milvain, Thomas
Montagu, G. (*Huntingdon*)
Morgan, D. J. (*Walthamstow*)
Morgan, Hn. F. (*Monm'thsh.*)
Morrell, George Herbert
Morton, Arthur H. Aylmer
Mount, William Arthur
Mowbray, Sir Robt. Gray C.
Murray, Rt Hn A. Graham (*Bute*
Murray, Charles J. (*Coventry*)
Murray, Col. Wyndham (*Bath*)
Nicholson, William Graham
Nolan, Joseph (*Louth, S.*)
O'Brien, Patrick (*Kilkenny*)
Palmer, Walter (*Salisbury*)
Percy, Earl
Pretyman, Ernest George
Purvis, Robert
Renwick, George
Roberts, Samuel (*Sheffield*)
Robertson, H. (*Hackney*)
Rolleston, Sir John F. L.
Ropner, Colonel Sir Robert
Rutherford, John (*Lancashire*)
Rutherford, W. W. (*Liverpool*)
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford-
Sadler, Col. Saml. Alexander
Scott, Sir S. (*Marylebone, W.*)
Seely, Chas. Hilton (*Lincoln*)
Seely, Maj. J. E. B. (*Isle of Wight*
Seton-Karr, Sir Henry
Simeon, Sir Barrington
Stanley, Lord (*Lancs.*)
Talbot, Lord E. (*Chichester*)
Tollemache, Henry James
Tomlinson, Sir Wm. Edw. M.
Valentia, Viscount
Walrond, Rt. Hn. Sir William H
Webb, Col. William George
Whiteley, H. (*Ashton-u.-Lyne*)
Wilson, A. S. (*York, E. R.*)
Wrightson, Sir Thomas

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Gretton and Sir Herbert Maxwell.

SIR J. STIRLING-MAXWELL (Glasgow, College) said the clause as it stood included houses which were contiguous to licensed premises. The Amendment he begged to move proposed that such contiguous houses should be excepted, and that the provision should apply only to licensed premises and the gardens and courts which were held in conjunction with them. If the clause were to be passed as it stood he believed that the premises of a bank situate next door to a public-house would be affected.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 34, to leave out lines 3, 4, and 5, and insert the words 'or court therewith occupied, and every one collecting rates or taxes therein shall be guilty of an offence under this Act.'"—(*Sir J. Stirling-Maxwell.*)

MR. GALLOWAY said if they accepted the Amendment they would be adding an additional insult to the licensed keeper or licence-holder. In the first place they said that his premises were not a proper place for the collection of rates. That was the decision of the House. Supposing that a bank was contiguous to licensed premises. Why should a bank be a more respectable place than a licensed house? He opposed the Amendment, and if he could get a teller he should divide the House to get these words removed from the Clause.

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 34, line 6, to leave out from the word 'person' to the word 'without' in line 9, and insert the words 'trafficking in any spirits or other excisable liquors in any place or premises.'"—(*The Lord Advocate.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 34, line 13, to leave out the words 'sum of' and insert the words 'sum not exceeding.'"—(*Mr. Caldwell.*)

Amendment agreed to.

*MR. A. GRAHAM MURRAY, in moving the following Amendments, said he had promised the Committee to look into the matter of penalties, and these drafting Amendments were the result.

Amendments proposed to the Bill—

"In page 34, line 13, to leave out the word 'seven' and insert the word 'fifty.'"

"In page 34, line 14, to leave out from the word 'in' to the word 'the' in line 16, and insert the words 'default of immediate payment.'"—(*The Lord Advocate.*)

Amendments agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 34, line 17, to leave out the words 'sum of,' and insert the words 'sum not exceeding.'"—(*Mr. Caldwell.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendments proposed to the Bill—

"In page 34, line 20, to leave out the word 'fifteen' and insert the words 'one hundred.'"

"In page 34, line 21, to leave out from the word 'in' to the word 'the' in line 24, and insert the words 'default of immediate payment.'"

"In page 34, line 24, to leave out the word 'of,' and insert the words 'not exceeding.'"—(*The Lord Advocate.*)

Amendments agreed to.

Amendments proposed to the Bill—

"In page 34, line 28, to leave out the word 'thirty,' and insert the words 'one hundred.'"

"In page 34, line 29, to leave out from the word 'in' to the word 'the' in line 31, and insert the words 'default of immediate payment.'"

"In page 34, line 32, to leave out the word 'of,' and insert the words 'not exceeding.'"

"In page 34, line 34, to leave out from the word 'same' to the word 'Provided' in line 38.

"In page 34, line 41, to leave out from the word 'of' to the word 'under' in line 42, and insert the words 'such trafficking.'"

"In page 35, line 4, to leave out from the word 'for' to the word 'may' in line 6, and insert the words 'such trafficking.'"

"In page 35, line 8, to leave out from the word 'evidence' to end of Clause."—(*The Lord Advocate.*)

Amendments agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 35, line 24, to leave out from the word 'coming' to end of Clause."—(*The Lord Advocate.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Bill."

MR. DALZIEL asked the right hon. Gentleman to say what was the exact meaning of his Amendment.

*MR. A. GRAHAM MURRAY said it was merely a drafting Amendment.

MR. CALDWELL also asked for an explanation. The words that the right hon. Gentleman proposed to leave out were as follows—

> "And provided also that every person who shall be convicted of bartering or selling spirits without having obtained a certificate shall, in default of the immediate payment of the penalty imposed upon him for such offence, be liable, in the discretion of the Court by which he shall be so convicted, to be imprisoned, as prescribed by the immediately preceding section, in the case of default of payment within four days after conviction.

> "(2) Every person trafficking in any spirits or other excisable liquors in any place or premises without having obtained a certificate in that behalf in terms of this Act shall be guilty of an offence, and on being convicted thereof shall for each such offence forfeit and pay the full penalties provided in the immediately preceding section, together with the expenses of prosecution and conviction; and in default of immediate payment thereof shall be imprisoned for the periods respectively prescribed by the immediately preceding section."

*MR. A. GRAHAM MURRAY said this was practically the result of the Amendment that had just been passed to Clause 63. He could tell the hon. Member that the Amendments, as moved, were especially asked for by Mr. Renton, the Procurator-Fiscal for Edinburgh, Mr. Weilson, the Procurator-Fiscal for Glasgow, and Mr. Dewar, the Chief.

Question put, and negatived.

Amendment proposed—

> "In Page 36, line 30, to leave out the word 'by,' and insert the words 'under the provisions of.'"—(*The Lord Advocate.*)

Amendment agreed to.

MR. CROMBIE (Kincardineshire) said the Lord Advocate had promised on a previous occasion to consider the principle of the Amendment which he desired to submit to the House. His object was to place this Bill on the same basis as the English Act, under which a drunken person could be arrested and a penalty exacted for being incapable in the streets, whether or not he was "under the care or protection of some suitable person." It was always possible to find some person willing to undertake the charge of, and protect a drunken person.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

> "In page 37, lines 24 and 25, to leave out the words 'and not under the care or protection of some suitable person.'"—(*Mr. Crombie.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Bill."

*MR. A. GRAHAM MURRAY said the Bill as it stood was part of an old law of Scotland, and meant that any person drunk and incapable, or unable to take care of himself, or a nuisance to other persons, committed an offence. That was not so if they were in the care of some suitable person. As a matter of fact, these words were not in the Glasgow Act, and in Glasgow it would be found perfectly impossible to work on those lines. It was really going too far to take the mere fact of drunkenness as being a punishable offence, as, if that were enacted, they might invade any hon. Member's dining-room. It was going too far to attempt to make drunkenness *per se* an offence. If a man was found incapable of taking care of himself, and was a nuisance, he could be convicted, but if he was in the care of some other suitable person, he could not be. They were acting upon the lines of the law to which they had been accustomed.

MR. DALZIEL said he had heard with the utmost surprise the statement of the right hon. Gentleman, which was oppposed to common sense. How could the right hon. Gentleman reconcile his present attitude with that which he took up in relation to the English Bill? He had told them that it was absurd to attempt to pass a similar provision for Scotland. It was a mistake to think that the Act was not carried out in England. A visit to any police court would show that the great majority of charges were for drunkenness in the streets on the part of people incapable of taking care of themselves. It was no protection in London for a drunk and incapable person to be in the company of a friend who was rather more sober than himself. He thought the Lord Advocate really ought to accept the very reasonable Amendment of his hon. friend.

MR. CALDWELL said he was convinced that public sense had advanced since the Act of Scotland was passed. The fact of a man allowing himself to be in a state of intoxication in the streets or public highways, whether he was or was not in charge of another person, was an offence against decency. If he got intoxicated and appeared in the public streets in the presence of people he was indecent, and ought to be punished in the usual way. There was no need to give a saving clause in the Bill to enable a drunken man to go through the streets in charge of friends. The Amendment ought to be accepted by the House.

MR. HENRY J. WILSON (Yorkshire, W.R., Holmfirth) said the Lord Advocate was quite wrong in thinking that intoxicated people were not arrested in England if they were under the care and protection of other persons. Such charges were being constantly made.

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 152; Noes, 72. (Division List No. 180.)

AYES.

Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Anstruther, H. T.
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Arrol, Sir William
Atkinson, Right Hon. John
Aubrey-Fletcher, Rt. Hn. Sir H.
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J. (*Manch'r*
Balfour, Captain C. B. (*Hornsey*
Balfour, Rt. Hn Gerald W (*Leeds*
Balfour, Kenneth R. (*Christch.*
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Bignold, Arthur
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Brotherton, Edward Allen
Bull, William James
Cavendish, V C W (*Derbysh.*)
Cecil, Evelyn (*Aston Manor*)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hn. J. (*Birm.*
Chamberlain, Rt. Hn. J A. (*Worc*
Chapman, Edward
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Cochrane, Hon. T. H. A. E.
Collings, Right Hon. Jesse
Colomb, Sir John Chas. Ready
Cox, Irwin Edwd. Bainbridge
Cross, Alexander (*Glasgow*)
Cross, Herb. Shepherd (*Bolton*)
Crossley, Rt. Hon. Sir Saville
Cullinan, J.
Davenport, William Bromley
Denny, Colonel
Devlin, Joseph (*Kilkenny, N.*)
Dewar, Sir T. R. (*Tr. Haml'ts*
Dickson, Charles Scott
Doughty, George
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers
Duffy, William J.
Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas
Fergusson, Rt. Hn. Sir J. (*Man'r*)
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fitzroy, Hon. Edw. Algernon
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Forster, Henry William
Foster, P. S. (*Warwick, S.W.*
Fyler, John Arthur
Galloway, William Johnson
Garfit, William
Gibbs, Hon. Vicary (*St. Albans*)
Godson, Sir Augustus Frederick
Gordon, Hn J E (*Elgin and Nairn*
Gore, Hn G. R. C. Ormsby- (*Salop*
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Greene, Hy. D. (*Shrewsbury*)

Gretton, John
Greville, Hon. Ronald
Groves, James Grimble
Hall, Edward Marshall
Hambro, Charles Eric
Hamilton, Rt Hn Ld. G.(*Midx*
Hardy, Laurence (*Kent, Ashfd*
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Hatch, Ernest Frederick Geo.
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Heath James (*Staffords, N. W*
Howard, Jno (*Kent, Faver'hm*
Jebb, Sir Richard Claverhouse
Jeffreys, Rt. Hon. Arthur Fred.
Johnstone, Heywood
Kenyon-Slaney, Col. W.(*Salop*
Kerr, John
King, Sir Henry Seymour
Law, Andrew Bonar (*Glasgow*
Lawson John Grant(*Yorks, N.R*
Lees, Sir Elliott (*Birkenhead*)
Leveson-Gower, Frederick N.S.
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Long, Rt. Hn. W. (*Bristol, S.*
Lowther, C. (*Cumb. Eskdale*)
Lucas, Reginald J.(*Portsmouth*
Lyttelton, Hon. Alfred
Maconochie, A. W.
M'Arthur, Charles (*Liverpool*)
M'Killop, Jas. (*Stirlingshire*)
M'Killop, W. (*Sligo, North*)
Martin, Richard Biddulph
Milvain, Thomas
Montagu, G. (*Huntingdon*)
Morgan, David J(*Walthamstow*
Morgan, Hn. F. (*Monm'thsh.*)
Morrell, George Herbert
Morton, Arthur H. Aylmer
Mount, William Arthur
Mowbray, Sir Robert Gray C.
Murray, Rt Hn. A Graham(*Bute*
Murray, Charles J. (*Coventry*)
Murray, Col. Wyndham (*Bath*
Myers, William Henry
Nicholson, William Graham
Nolan, Joseph (*Louth, S.*)
O'Brien, Patrick (*Kilkenny*)
O'Dowd, John
Palmer, Walter (*Salisbury*)
Peel, Hn. Wm. Robert Wellesley
Percy, Earl
Pretyman, Ernest George
Purvis, Robert
Rattigan, Sir William Henry
Reid, James (*Greenock*)
Renshaw, Sir Charles Bine
Renwick, George
Ritchie, Rt. Hn. Chas. Thomson
Roberts, Samuel (*Sheffield*)
Robertson, Herbert (*Hackney*)
Rolleston, Sir John F. L.
Ropner, Colonel Sir Robert
Rutherford, John (*Lancashire*)
Rutherford, W. W. (*Liverpool*
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford
Sadler, Col. Samuel Alexander
Scott, Sir S. (*Marylebone, W.*)
Seely, Chas. Hilton (*Lincoln*)
Seely-Maj. J. E. B.(*Isle of Wight*
Shaw-Stewart, M. H. (*Renfrew*
Simeon, Sir Barrington
Sinclair, Louis (*Romford*)
Smith, James Parker (*Lanarks*
Spear, John Ward
Stanley, Lord (*Lancs.*)
Stirling-Maxwell, Sir John M.
Talbot, Lord E. (*Chichester*)
Talbot, Rt. Hn. J. G. (*Oxf'd Univ*
Tomlinson, Sir Wm. E. M.
Valentia, Viscount
Walrond, Rt. Hn. Sir William H.
Webb, Colonel William George
Welby, Lt.-Col. A. C. E.(*Taunton*
Wilson, A. S. (*York, E. R.*)
Wilson, John (*Falkirk*)
Wilson, John (*Glasgow*)
Wodehouse, Rt. Hn. E. R. (*Bath*
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart
Wrightson, Sir Thomas
Wylie, Alexander

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Mr. Fellowes.

NOES.

Allen, Chas. P. (*Glos., Stroud*)
Asher, Alexander
Baird, John George Alexander
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Bayley, Thomas (*Derbyshire*)
Bill, Charles
Bolton, Thomas Dolling
Brigg, John
Broadhurst, Henry
Brown, George M. (*Edinburgh*
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Caldwell, James
Channing, Francis Allston
Corbett, A. Cameron (*Glasg.*)
Corbett, T. L. (*Down, North*)
Craig, Robert Hunter (*Lanark.*
Cremer, William Randal
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, Alfred (*Carmarthen*)
Dunn, Sir William
Edwards, Frank
Evans, Samuel T. (*Glamorgan*)
Farquharson, Dr. Robert
Grey, Rt. Hn. Sir E. (*Berwick*
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Harmsworth, R. Leicester
Harwood, George
Hayne, Rt. Hn. Charles Seale-
Hope, John Deans (*Fife, West*
Humphreys-Owen, Arthur C.
Joicey, Sir James
Jones, William (*Carnarvonsh.*
Kearley, Hudson E.
Lambert, George
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (*Cornwall*
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leigh, Sir Joseph
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lough, Thomas
Markham, Arthur Basil
Norman, Henry
Orr-Ewing, Charles Lindsay
Partington, Oswald
Philipps, John Wynford
Pirie, Duncan V.
Priestley, Arthur
Rickett, J. Compton
Rigg, Richard
Roberts, John H. (*Denbighs.*)
Robson, William Snowdon
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rose, Charles Day
Samuel, Herbt. L. (*Cleveland*)
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Charles E. (*Stafford*)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair, John (*Forfarshire*)
Soares, Ernest J.
Taylor, Theodore C. (*Radcliffe*)
Tennant, Harold John
Tomkinson, James
Toulmin, George
Wason, Eugene (*Clackmannan*
Wason, J. Cathcart (*Orkney*)
Weir, James Galloway
White, George (*Norfolk*)
Whitley, J. H. (*Halifax*)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Williams, O. (*Merioneth*)
Wilson, H. J. (*York, W. R.*)
Woodhouse, Sir J T (*Huddersf'd*

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Crombie and Mr. Black.

And, it being after Midnight, further consideration of the Bill, as amended (in the Standing Committee), stood adjourned.

Bill, as amended (in the Standing Committee), to be further considered to-morrow.

Adjourned at ten minutes after Twelve o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Wednesday, 22nd July, 1903.

The House met at Two of the Clock.

UNOPPOSED PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON LAW, ETC.

Ordered, That the Standing Committee on Law, etc., have leave to sit this day, after a quarter-past Two, during the Sitting of the House.—(*Lord Edmund Fitzmaurice.*)

Middlesbrough Corporation Bill. Lords' Amendments considered, and agreed to.

Tynemouth and District Tramways Bill [Lords]. Verbal Amendments made; Bill read the third time, and passed, with Amendments.

Birmingham Corporation Bill [Lords]; Chatham and District Light Railways Bill [Lords]. As amended, considered; to be read the third time.

Exeter Corporation Bill [Lords]. As amended, considered; Amendments made; Bill to be read the third time.

Willesden Urban District Council Bill [Lords]. As amended, considered; to be read the third time.

Rothesay Corporation Order Confirmation. Bill to confirm a Provisional Order under The Private Legislation Procedure (Scotland) Act, 1899, relating to the Royal Burgh of Rothesay, ordered to be brought in by the Lord Advocate and Mr. Solicitor-General for Scotland.

Rothesay Corporation Order Confirmation Bill. "To confirm a Provisional Order under The Private Legislation Procedure (Scotland) Act, 1899, relating to the Royal Burgh of Rothesay," presented accordingly; and ordered to be considered upon Friday.

Somerset and District Electric Power Bill [Lords]. Reported with Amendments; Report to lie upon the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

COLONIAL REPORTS (ANNUAL).

Copy presented, of Colonial Report No. 390 (British Honduras, Annual Report for 1902) [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

AFRICA (No. 9, 1903).

Copy presented, of Memorandum showing position of the four African Protectorates administered by the Foreign Office in June, 1903, arranged in chronological order of date of administration [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

Paper laid upon the Table by the Clerk of the House:—

INQUIRY INTO CHARITIES (COUNTY OF WILTS).

Further Return relative thereto [ordered 9th August, 1901—*Mr. Griffith Boscawen*]; to be printed. [No. 267.]

BRITISH VESSELS SOLD TO FOREIGNERS.

Return ordered, "of the number and tonnage of vessels sold from United

Kingdom ownership under the British flag to foreign ownership under foreign flags in each year from 1875 to 1902, in the following form—

Year.	Number of Steamships.	Tonnage.	Number of Sailing Ships.	Tonnage.
1875				
1876				
1877				
1878				
1879				
1880				
1881				
1882				
1883				
1884				
1885				
1886				
1887				
1888				
1889				
1890				
1891				
1892				
1893				
1894				
1895				
1896				
1897				
1898				
1899				
1900				
1901				
1902				

—(*Mr. Runciman.*)

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

—

Home Office and Fiscal Inquiry—Response to Appeal for Relief of Distress in 1842.

MR. D. A. THOMAS (Merthyr Tydvil): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if his office is engaged on the fiscal inquiry; and whether he has any official information showing what financial response followed the appeal made by the Home Secretary, through the Archbishop of Canterbury in 1842, to the ministers in each parish to effectually excite their parishioners to a liberal contribution towards relieving the severe distress from which many of the working classes suffered; and if the whole sum voluntarily subscribed was distributed in relief of the distress at the time.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Akers Douglas.*) The answer to the first sentence is in the negative. I have no official records enabling me to answer the other Questions, but I am having inquiries made.

Detention of a Sirdar and Coolies on the Eastern Bengal Railway.

MR. WEIR (Ross and Cromarty): To ask the Secretary of State for India whether he is aware that in February, 1902, a Sirdar with about fifty coolies when travelling to a labour contractor was stopped by the police at Parbatipur Junction on the Eastern Bengal Railway, and not allowed to proceed until after he had telegraphed to the head of his firm, who approached the Assistant-General of Government Railway Police at Calcutta; is he aware that although the Sirdar had a pass for himself and coolies he was detained for two and a half days and required to pay money to the police; and will some inquiry be made on the subject by the Government of India.

(*Answered by Secretary Lord George Hamilton.*) I have no information on the subject. The matter should be represented to the local authorities.

Location of Madras Workhouse.

MR. HERBERT ROBERTS (Denbighshire, W.): To ask the Secretary of State for India whether he has received a reply to the inquiry which he addressed, in June last year, to the Government of India with reference to the location of the workhouse at Madras within the precincts of the Presidency Gaol; whether he has considered the representations made as to the results of such an arrangement; and whether he is in a position now to state the view of the Government of India upon the matter.

(*Answered by Secretary Lord George Hamilton.*) I have received the reply of the Government of India, and have given directions that persons detained under the European Vagrancy Act shall be accommodated in premises not forming part of the penitentiary.

Troops in South Africa—India's Contribution.

SIR MANCHERJEE BHOWNAGGREE (Bethnal Green, N.E.): To ask the Secretary of State for India whether he and his Council have been consulted with reference to the scheme of maintaining a reserve of 25,000 troops in South Africa; whether they have unanimously agreed to the payment of a contribution by India towards the expenses of that force; and if he will place upon the Table of the House the Minutes of the Council as well as copy of the correspondence addressed to the Government of India on the subject.

(*Answered by Secretary Lord George Hamilton.*) The scheme of maintaining a reserve of 25,000 troops in South Africa is a matter for the consideration of His Majesty's Government; but, in so far as it is further proposed that India shall have a first claim on the services of half that reserve in return for a contribution of £400,000 a year, I have considered the matter in Council, and have consulted the Government of India. Their reply has not yet been received, and I shall, of course, await it before coming to any final decision on the subject. I cannot at present give any undertaking as to the presentation of Papers.

Swimming in the Mercantile Marine.

SIR JOHN LENG (Dundee): To ask the President of the Board of Trade if he can state what percentage of shipmasters, officers, seamen, and engineers in the mercantile marine are able to swim; and whether, seeing that there is not any clause in the Merchant Shipping Acts requiring proficiency in swimming as a qualification for seafaring men before passing their examinations, he will consider the desirableness of enacting this qualification.

(*Answered by Mr. Gerald Balfour.*) There are no figures available which would enable me to answer the first part of the Question. Although I am in sympathy with the object which the hon. Member desires to secure, I do not think an alteration of the law such as he suggests would be expedient.

Food Imports from the Colonies and Foreign Countries.

MR. SEELY (Lincoln): To ask the President of the Board of Trade whether he can state what is the value of the total imports of food into the United Kingdom from British colonies and foreign countries, respectively; and if he can give any estimate of the value of the home supply.

(*Answered by Mr. Gerald Balfour.*) The imports of food and drink into the United Kingdom in 1902 from British colonies and possessions were valued at £43,289,000, and from foreign countries at £175,427,000. The answer to the last part of the Question is in the negative.

German Market and Countries adopting Retaliatory Fiscal Policy.

SIR WILLIAM HOLLAND (Yorkshire, W.R. Rotherham): To ask the President of the Board of Trade whether any country adopting a retaliatory fiscal policy has access to the German market on more favourable tariff terms than the United Kingdom.

(*Answered by Mr. Gerald Balfour.*) No.

Repatriation of Merchant Seamen.

SIR ROBERT ROPNER (Stockton): To ask the President of the Board of Trade to state the number of seamen sent home, and the cost of their repatriation, for each of the four years previous to the coming into force of the Merchant Shipping (Mercantile Marine Fund) Act, 1898—viz., the 1st April, 1899, and similar statistics for each of the four following years.

(*Answered by Mr. Gerald Balfour.*) I shall be happy to supply the hon. Member with a statement of the number of seamen sent home and the cost of their conveyance to this country in the years mentioned.

Training in the Navy—Diving and Swimming.

SIR JOHN LENG: To ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether the teaching of swimming and diving is part of the education and training of officers and men in the British Navy; and, if so, under what regulations proficiency is secured in these exercises for health and the saving of life.

(*Answered by Mr. Arnold-Forster.*) The reply is in the affirmative. All Executive, Engineer, and Accountant Officers in the Royal Navy must be in the possession of certificates of proficiency in swimming, and all boys in the training ships are taught to swim. There are various men's ratings for which ability to swim is not a necessary qualification, but in these cases every encouragement is offered to the men to learn, both by giving facilities while at the home ports and in the Reserves, and by the holding of swimming classes in His Majesty's ships. At all inspections of His Majesty's ships it is the duty of the inspecting officer to make special inquiries as to the number of persons on board, if any, who cannot swim, and to report what steps are taken in the matter. The general Regulations on the subject will be found in Article 263 of the King's Regulations and Admiralty Instructions.

Holidays in the Central Telegraph Office.

MR. PATRICK O'BRIEN (Kilkenny): To ask the Postmaster-General whether, in view of the fact that the Committee which revised the holiday periods in the Central Telegraph Office promised that the choice of annual leave should remain governed by seniority, and that as a result the seniors made concessions in order to benefit their junior colleagues, he will explain why the Secretary to the Post Office now states that senior clerks are to have their holidays spread over eight months of the year, with the result that some are compelled to take their holidays in March after a service of nearly thirty years.

(*Answered by Mr. Austen Chamberlain.*) The hon. Member presumably refers to the class of overseers and senior telegraphists. No statement has been made that the annual leave of any existing officers in that class is to be spread over eight months of the year, and none have had to take their leave in March.

Central Telegraph Office—Promotion of Tube Attendants.

MR. PATRICK O'BRIEN: To ask the Postmaster-General whether he is aware that some of the tube attendants of the Central Telegraph Office have been in receipt of the maximum salary for four years—viz., 30s.; and, seeing it has been the practice to recruit lobby officers with a maximum salary of 40s. per week from the tube attendant staff, will he explain why a vacancy in the higher class is to be given to persons other than the tube attendants.

(*Answered by Mr. Austen Chamberlain.*) Five of the tube attendants in the Central Telegraph Office have been for four years in receipt of wages at the maximum of their scale. The class of lobby keepers is no longer recruited from the class of tube attendants, it having been found that police pensioners were better fitted for the duty. The only vacancy in the class of lobby keepers which has occurred this year will not be filled up.

Postmen's Allowances.

MR. JAMES O'CONNOR (Wicklow, W.): To ask the Postmaster-General how many postmen now receive allowances, other than supervising allowances, and the total sum of money so expended.

(*Answered by Mr. Austen Chamberlain.*) It would be a troublesome and expensive work to furnish a comprehensive list of the allowances referred to, and I do not think the expense would be justified by the result.

Reinstatement of British Postal Servants from South Africa.

MR. JAMES O'CONNOR: To ask the Postmaster-General whether British postal servants who entered the South African postal service for an agreed term of two years will, at the end of that period, be reinstated in the home service should they so desire.

(*Answered by Mr. Austen Chamberlain.*) No general statement can be made; but each case will be dealt with on its merits.

Report on Consular Service.

MR. MOON (St. Pancras, N.): To ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether any Report has been recently made as to His Majesty's Consular Service; and, if so, whether it will be presented to Parliament.

(*Answered by Lord Cranborne.*) The Report has been presented to Parliament to-day.

Withdrawal of School Children during Religious Instruction.

MR. PLATT-HIGGINS (Salford, N.): To ask the Secretary to the Board of Education whether, in view of the provisions of the Seventh Section of the Elementary Education Act of 1870, which regulates the attendance of children during the period of religious instruction in elementary schools, he will consider the advisability of modifying the new by-law authorising the withdrawal of children from school till after the time of religious instruction is passed.

(*Answered by Sir William Anson.*) The new form of by-law which the Board of Education have expressed themselves as willing to approve if adopted by local authorities has been designedly framed to carry out more completely the intention and effect of the section referred to in the Question.

Llangollen School Board—Different Treatment of Board Schools and Voluntary Schools.

MR. GEORGE KENYON (Denbigh): To ask the Secretary to the Board of Education whether he is aware that the clerk to the School Board at Llangollen has stated that, as regards payments of existing liabilities, different treatment is being accorded to the Board schools and to the voluntary schools; and, if so, will he state what steps he proposes to take to prevent such preferential treatment.

(*Answered by Sir William Anson.*) Llangollen is an urban district with a population of some 3,000 in Denbighshire. This county has not as yet submitted a scheme to the Board, so that apparently the Act will not be in operation at Llangollen for some time. It is impossible under these circumstances that any treatment under the Act of 1902, preferential or otherwise, is now being accorded to any sort of schools.

Vivisection Experiments without Anæsthetics—Feeding Experiments.

MR. PERKS (Lincolnshire, Louth): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he is aware that during the year 1902 there were 12,000 experiments performed on living animals without anæsthetics, and, if so, will he state whether the feeding experiments forming part of the 12,000 include starving animals to death and also forced overfeeding; and whether these experiments are authorised by the Home Office.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Akers Douglas.*) The Return which has been laid before Parliament shows that, under licences and certificates duly authorised by the Secretary of State for the Home Department, over 12,000 experiments (being mostly inoculations and in no case involving any serious operation) were performed in 1902 without anæsthetics. Neither the starving of animals to death nor the forced overfeeding of animals is included among the experiments authorised or performed. In the case of one gentleman who was authorised to perform certain experiments, including four upon rats or rabbits kept without food for certain periods, at the end of which they were to be killed, the Return shows one experiment.

Pensions of Retired Officers Re-employed during South African War.

MR. PIRIE (Aberdeen, N.): To ask the Secretary of State for War if he will state what increase of pension or other remuneration has been granted to those retired officers re-employed during the late Boer war who have received substantive promotion in recognition of their services rendered during the campaign; and, if no such increase has yet been granted, will instructions be issued that they shall receive the retired pay of the rank to which they have been promoted.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Brodrick.*) Re-employed retired officers promoted while serving receive such advantages in retired pay as the length of service in the higher rank would entitle them to. Perhaps the hon. Member would explain to what specific cases he refers.

Appointments to the Army from the Militia—New Regulations.

MR. SAMUEL EVANS (Glamorganshire, Mid): To ask the Secretary of State for War when the new regulations with reference to the position of candidates desiring to enter the Army through the Militia will be made known, and what preliminary examinations such candidates will have to pass; and when the first examination under the new regulations will be held.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Brodrick.*) It is hoped that the new regulations will shortly be made known. The Militia candidates will be required to pass a qualifying literary examination and a competitive examination in military subjects. If found practicable the first of the examinations will be held in September, 1904.

Home Service for the South Staffordshire Regiment.

MR. SHAW (Stafford): To ask the Secretary of State for War when may the 1st South Staffordshire Regiment, now stationed at Harrismith, Orange River Colony, be ordered for home; and is there any prospect of the married non-commissioned officers' and men's wives and children being sent out to join them seeing that they have been separated from them nearly four years, and that the regiment has been under canvas three years and eight months.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Brodrick.*) Will the hon. Member kindly refer to my reply to a Question put by my hon. friend the Member for the West Division of Wolverhampton on the 16th instant on this subject.†

Officers and the Royal Toast—Water instead of Wine.

MR. BROADHURST (Leicester): To ask the Secretary of State for War whether he will bring to the cognisance of the various officers in command of the different regiments of the Army His Majesty's statement that he felt quite as much honoured when his health was drunk by young officers in the Navy in water as in wine.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Brodrick.*) The custom of drinking His Majesty's health is not prescribed by regulations, and therefore no official cognisance can be taken of the mode of drinking the health.

Efficiency of Volunteers.

SIR THOMAS DEWAR (Tower Hamlets, St. George's): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War if he will state how many Volunteer officers have secured certificates of efficiency at schools of instruction or elsewhere during the current year; how many Volunteers have attended camps of instruction during the year; and how many have signified their intention of attending these camps.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Brodrick.*) These Returns are rendered periodically, and I must ask the hon. Member to await the usual period, as duplication of labour would be caused by calling for these Returns at uncertain intervals.

Indian Contributions to Military Expenditure.

SIR MANCHERJEE BHOWNAGGREE: To ask the Secretary of State for War if, in view of the second paragraph of the War Office letter to the India Office of the 18th June, 1902, he would treat a communication to the Indian Government of proposals involving a large recurring increase of the military expenditure of that Government as other than confidential, and as attended by the risk of premature discloures referred to in that paragraph; and, further, if the Secretary of State for India took part in the discussion of the proposed increase of the pay of the British soldier which is therein stated to have been considered by His Majesty's Government from the standpoint of the interests of the Empire as a whole, or if the words His Majesty's Government in that connection signify the Secretary of State for War and his Departmental advisers only.

---

† See page 857.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Brodrick*). My hon. friend has misunderstood the purport of the paragraph quoted. Any question of an increase of pay to the Army is necessarily kept strictly confidential, as such proposals, if not carried through after they have been entertained, would lead to discontent. The expression His Majesty's Government includes the Secretary of State for India, who was present at the discussions.

Indian Labour for Southern Rhodesia.

SIR THOMAS DEWAR: To ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether his attention has been called to the remarks made at a recent meeting of the British South Africa Company in regard to the importation of coloured labour to supplement the deficiency of local labour in Southern Rhodesia; and will he state whether the Government will facilitate the supply of such indentured Asiatic labour as may be required.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Chamberlain.*) I have seen the remarks referred to. The Indian Government have felt compelled to express their inability to consent to the proposal made by the Government of Southern Rhodesia for various reasons. One reason they give is that the demand for Indian underground labour is at present greater than the supply.

Treatment of British Indian Subjects in the South African Colonies.

SIR MANCHERJEE BHOWNAGGREE: To ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies if the despatch from Lord Milner relating to the question of the treatment of British Indian subjects in the African colonies has yet been received; and if he proposes to lay the same upon the Table of the House.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Chamberlain.*) Lord Milner's despatch, which I have received, deals with the treatment of British Indian subjects in the Transvaal. I am in communication with Lord Milner as to whether there is any objection to its publication.

SIR MANCHERJEE BHOWNAGGREE: To ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies if he has yet received the Reports which he asked for by despatch of the 1st May from the local authorities relating to the ill-treatment of a number of British Indian subjects in the Transvaal, and to the deaths of a Mahometan fruit seller at Durban last February and of a labourer at Ladysmith last March; and, if so, will he state the contents of those Reports.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Chamberlain.*) The Reports referred to have been received, and will be communicated to the hon. Member.

QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE.

Northwich Military Camp.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL (Donegal, S.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether he is aware that there are a number of Roman Catholic soldiers about 170, in the camp of the Welsh Fusiliers and the U Battery at Delamere, near Northwich, and that the Reverend D. Cregan, Roman Catholic Rector of Northwich, who on former occasions administered to the spiritual wants of the Roman Catholic soldiers with the permission of a former Commanding Officer, wrote to the officer at present in command stating that he was ready and anxious to go to the camp and conduct service for these Roman Catholic soldiers, but has not received a reply or an acknowledgment of the receipt of his letter, although it was posted more than a fortnight ago; and, if so, will he state whether there is any provision made for Roman Catholic soldiers to attend divine service in this camp; and whether the Commanding Officer has any, and, if so, what explanation to give for his neglect in replying to the Reverend D. Cregan's letter; and what steps the War Office authorities propose to take in this matter.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO THE WAR OFFICE (Lord STANLEY-Lancashire, Westhoughton): This is a matter for the General Officer Commanding the district, to whom the hon. Member should address any communications he may think fit to make on the subject.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL: Do I understand that the noble Lord will take no action in this matter?

LORD STANLEY: The hon. Gentleman has heard my answer.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL: I say it is very scandalous.

Fiscal Inquiry—Food Imports.

MR. LAMBERT (Devonshire, South Molton): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies if he proposes to place, in addition to duties on foreign corn, taxes on foreign beef, mutton, wool, butter, and cheese for the carrying out of his proposals to give colonial goods a preference in the home market.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES (Mr. J. CHAMBERLAIN, Birmingham, W.): I think the Question is a little irregular. The hon. Member is really asking me, not about any action of the Government, but my personal opinion. In regard to that, I have nothing to add to what I have already said.

Imports of Wool and Hides.

MR. BLACK (Banffshire): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he is aware that wool and hides form the larger proportion of the imports into this country from the Australian colonies as compared with food, and, with the view of benefiting these colonies, whether the Government has resolved to impose an import duty on wool and hides as well as on food coming from foreign countries, or whether it has resolved to refrain from imposing such a duty.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: His Majesty's Government has made no proposals at all on this subject, and as far as I am aware no Member on this side of the House has proposed or suggested a tax on raw materials.

MR. BLACK: May it be taken that the right hon. Gentleman was speaking for the Government in proposing——

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, order! The hon. Member is referring to some other point.

MR. BLACK: On a point of order, Sir, the right hon. Gentleman has already made a statement as a member of the Government, and I venture to submit that we are entitled to know whether he spoke on behalf of the Government on the previous occasion?

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, order!

Germany and Canada.

MR. BLACK: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether Canada has since 1897 been in direct correspondence with, Germany as to tariff arrangements; and, if so, whether the correspondence will be published.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN: The Canadian Government can only communicate with the Government of Germany through His Majesty's Government, but some informal and unofficial discussions took place between Herr Bopp, the German Consul-General, at Ottawa, and members of the Dominion Government, in 1901, of which there is, so far as I am aware, no record. All the correspondence has already been published.

Assam Coolie Riot.

MR. HERBERT ROBERTS (Denbighshire, W.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether his attention has been drawn to a coolie riot which occurred on 19th May last at a tea garden in Assam, in consequence of which forty-two coolies have been sentenced to various terms of imprisonment; and whether he can supply information as to the causes which led to this outbreak.

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA (Earl PERCY, Kensington, S): I have noticed the account of the riot given in the newspapers. I have no further information regarding it.

Brussels Sugar Convention—Imports from Austria, Hungary, and France.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES (Lynn Regis): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade, in view of the fact that the Permanent Commission at Brussels have found that the so-called contingent law of Austria and the law proposed to the Hungarian Parliament are inconsistent with the Brussels Sugar Convention, and that the French system is not in harmony with that Convention, do His Majesty's Government intend to prohibit, as from 1st September next, the importation of sugars and sugared products from Austria, from Hungary, and from France; and, if not, how otherwise do they propose to fulfil their obligations under the Convention.

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (Lord CRANBORNE, Rochester.) The Question is based on the assumption that the two contracting States named will fail to carry out their obligations under the Convention. I have no reason to suppose that this will be the case.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES: The noble Lord has entirely misrepresented my Question. It is based on nothing of the kind. I asked a Question which is based upon statements laid before Parliament, and, in addition to that, I may say that, in regard to France, it is stated that she cannot alter her law. Under these circumstances, I respectfully ask what His Majesty's Government propose to do.

LORD CRANBORNE: I do not think that the hon. Gentleman has wrongly quoted what passed at the Conference, but it remains for those States to bring their legislation into harmony with the findings of the Conference.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES: Is the noble Lord not aware that in his own despatch it is stated that France cannot do so?

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, Order! The Question cannot be argued.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES: I cannot get an Answer.

Russian Sugars.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES: I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs has His Majesty's Government observed that Sir H. Bergne, in his despatch of 13th July, 1903, states the decision of the Permanent Sugar Commission at Brussels to be that, pending further consideration, the contracting States might apply to Russian sugars and sugared products the rate of countervailing duty fixed by the United States; is he aware that the decision of the Commission was not that the rate in question might, but that it shall, be applied to the Russian sugars; and, if so, can he explain Sir H. Bergne's statement to the effect that the Commission left its application optional; and do His Majesty's Government intend to apply to Russian sugars and sugared products the United States rates, or do they intend to prohibit their importation altogether.

LORD CRANBORNE: I am informed that the word "might" was employed because the contracting States have the option of applying either prohibition or countervailing duties. As my hon. friend is aware, in the Sugar Convention Bill power is not taken to impose countervailing duties, but to prohibit bounty-fed sugar and sugared products.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES: It is not the word implied in the Convention.

LORD CRANBORNE: I think it is perfectly well chosen.

Trade Interests in Roumania.

MR. HOULT (Cheshire, Wirrall): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he is aware that for some time past German trade interests in Roumania have been represented by a trade expert; and whether, in view of the fact that the Roumanian Government are at present considering their tariff, and that other countries are represented by trade experts, he will at once appoint a trade expert to safeguard the interests of British trade.

LORD CRANBORNE: The German official, to whom no doubt my hon. friend refers, is described as an agricultural expert. The Secretary of State will consider in consultation with the Board of Trade whether any steps should be taken in the direction suggested in the Question.

Naval and Military Expenditure.

MR. MANSFIELD (Lincolnshire, Spalding): I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer will he state whether he has been able to make inquiries as to the possibility of a reduction of expenditure upon the military and naval forces of this country; and, if so, can he state whether such expenditure will be affected by the proposed changes in the fiscal policy; and, if so, to what extent, or in what manner.

*THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER (Mr. RITCHIE, Croydon): I can assure the hon. Member that the possibility of reducing expenditure is always under my consideration, but in what way the proposed changes in fiscal policy affect the matter I do not quite see.

Fiscal Inquiry—Most-Favoured-Nation Treatment.

MR. BLACK: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether, seeing that this country under the present fiscal system has for over fifty years enjoyed uninterrupted most-favoured-nation treatment from every other country, he has any information as to how far the imposition of import duties on the goods of other countries will affect this position and the general trade of this country.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF TRADE (Mr. GERALD BALFOUR, Leeds, Central): There is hardly any information, historical or statistical, relating to commerce which may not conceivably be regarded as having a possible bearing upon one or other of the problems referred to in this Question.

Colonial Trade with the Mother Country and Foreign Countries.

MR. MANSFIELD: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade if he will state the total amount of British exports into each of the self-governing colonies for last year (not including war material, etc., to South Africa), and the total amount of foreign exports; also the particulars as regards India and other British possessions in the same way.

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: The imports from the United Kingdom and foreign countries into each British possession in 1901 are given in the Return C., 1638, which has recently been laid before Parliament. The figures for 1902 are not yet available for many of the colonies. Exports of British produce to each colony in 1902 are given in the Annual Statement of Trade, Vol. 2, and also re-exports of foreign and colonial produce from the United Kingdom to each colony.

MR. LABOUCHERE (Northampton): Are we not to have fuller Papers laid on the Table, or are we to be referred from pillar to post amongst the Blue-books. Am I not right in understanding that we are to have a *précis* in order to bring the subject before the country to aid in the grand inquest of the nation.

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: The Question was specific, and I have given an Answer to the best of my ability. It is impossible, as the hon. Member will admit, to give all the figures asked for in reply to a Question.

Rural Schools—Curriculum.

MR. LAMBERT: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Board of Education whether he will consider the advisability in the rural school curriculum of modifying or withdrawing the subject of Drawing, and utilising the time for teaching the measurements of surfaces and stacks, grafting and pruning fruit trees, culture of bees, knowledge of animal philosophy, different values of manures and soils, and kindred subjects fitting rural children for country livelihoods.

THE PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION (Sir WILLIAM ANSON, Oxford University): Under Article 15 of the Code drawing is required to be taken, as a rule, in all schools, but not necessarily in every class, and it may be omitted in any school which can satisfy the inspector and the Board that there is good reason for the omission. The Board of Education are extremely anxious to encourage arrangements for bringing the course of instruction in rural elementary schools into close relations with the environment of the scholars; and the inspectors of the Board have power under Article 15 of the Code to approve a course of instruction specially designed for this purpose, and, if necessary, to sanction special arrangements as to Drawing.

MR. LAMBERT: Will the hon. Gentleman instruct the inspectors of the Department to give special attention to this subject in rural schools?

SIR WILLIAM ANSON: They are already instructed to pay special attention to the adaptation of the course of instruction to the environment of the scholars.

MR. HUMPHREYS-OWEN (Montgomeryshire): Is not Drawing considered by the Board of Education a very valuable subject in rural schools in encouraging the working together of hand and eye?

SIR WILLIAM ANSON: It certainly is a valuable subject.

Whitaker Wright Prosecution.

MR. LAMBERT: I beg to ask Mr. Attorney-General if the Government have yet arrived at any decision with regard to the ultimate incidence of the costs incurred in the prosecution of Mr. Whitaker Wright; and whether, in view of the importance of vindicating commercial morality, he will direct the costs of the prosecution to be borne by the Crown.

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL (Sir ROBERT FINLAY, Inverness Burghs): It would be premature at this stage of the proceedings to give any decision on the Question of the hon. Member.

MR. LAMBERT: When does the hon. and learned Gentleman think he can give his decision?

SIR ROBERT FINLAY: The prosecution is coming on shortly, and when it is over the question can be considered.

Terminable Leaseholds.

MR. LUNDON (Limerick, E.): On behalf of the hon. Member for the St. Patrick Division of Dublin I beg to ask Mr. Attorney-General whether, in view of the fact that the terminable leasehold system has never had the formal sanction of either House of Parliament, the Government will consider the advisability of introducing a measure to safeguard the property paid for by terminable leaseholders.

SIR ROBERT FINLAY: I am not prepared to give any undertaking as to legislation on this subject, but any definite proposal which the hon. Member may make shall receive consideration.

Franco-Spanish Alliance.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES: I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury has His Majesty's Government observed the statement made by Señor Silvela, Prime Minister of Spain, at the meeting of the Cortes last week, immediately before his resignation, of the many interests and motives of alliance between France and Spain and the necessity for a close union between those two countries; have His Majesty's Government received any information as to the existence of an alliance or an understanding between the French and Spanish Governments; if so, are they aware of the conditions thereof; and does the understanding, if any, extend to Gibraltar.

THE PRIME MINISTER AND FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Mr. A. J. BALFOUR, Manchester, E.): We have no information as to any alliance between the French and Spanish Governments.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES: Or of an understanding?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: An understanding is of the nature of an alliance, and that word covers it. We have no knowledge.

Brussels Sugar Convention.—British Policy of Prohibition.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES: I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury, in view of the fact that the Permanent Commission at Brussels have fixed specified countervailing duties to be imposed by each contracting State of the Brussels Sugar Convention on all sugars and sugared products imported from Spain, Denmark, Japan, Roumania, Russia, and the Argentine Republic, and that these duties are different in each case, and vary from 1 fr. 75 to 27 fr. per 100 kilogrammes, do His Majesty's Government intend to treat all the cases in the same way, by absolutely prohibiting from 1st September next the importation of sugar and sugared products from all the countries in question, irrespective of differences in their bounties; what other countries signatories of the Convention intend to depart from the finding of the Commission, that specified differential treatment shall be given to the countries in question, in order to extend to them one common treatment, either by prohibition or otherwise; and will His Majesty's Government consider the propriety of imposing the duties named by the Commission, instead of adopting the more severe method of prohibition.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: It would be desirable to reserve the Answer to this Question till the debate on the Second Reading of the Bill, when the subject can be dealt with more fully than is possible by Question and Answer across the floor of the House.

TOWN COUNCILS (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Reported, with Amendments, from the Standing Committee on Law, etc. Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 268.] Minutes of Proceedings of the Standing Committee to be printed. [No. 268.] Bill, as amended (in the Standing Committee), to be considered to-morrow, and to be printed. [Bill 291.]

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE (SUPPLY).

Ordered, That three additional days be allotted to the Business of Supply.—(*Mr. A. J. Balfour.*)

LONDON EDUCATION BILL.

[THIRD READING.]

Order for Third Reading read.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now read the third time."

*DR. MACNAMARA (Camberwell, N.): I desire to say a few last words on this Bill by way of moving its rejection. I take this course for three reasons. First of all, as a London Member, I venture to resent the way in which the Bill has been pushed through its various stages in this House. The Second Reading was taken four parliamentary days after the First Reading was carried, and before either the School Board for London or the County Council had any opportunity whatever of examining its details. I asked the Prime Minister to postpone the Second Reading, in order that those two great bodies, so deeply affected by the measure, might have an opportunity of considering its details, and he replied that he did not think it would be convenient or possible to alter the arrangement come to, because, of course, these two important bodies would have an opportunity of expressing their opinion during the interval between the Second Reading and the Committee stage. But, in spite of that deliberate pledge, what occurred? The Second Reading of the Bill was finished on Wednesday, 29th April. The very next day the London School Board appointed a special Committee to examine the Bill and make recommendations to be forwarded to the Government. The Committee met on Friday, 1st May, and again on the following Tuesday and Friday, and I can say personally that they worked very hard on those three days. But before they had had an opportunity of finishing their deliberations, before they could place their views before the Board with the view to submitting those views to the Government, the Committee stage was entered upon. I desire, then, to express very strong resentment at the Second Reading having been taken before either the School Board or the County Council had had a chance of examining the measure, and at the Committee stage having been pushed on before they had anything like a reasonable opportunity of expressing their opinion. I speak on behalf of the people of London when I say that this is an ill requital on the part of the Government, which has been treated so generously by London in the matter of representation in this House.

My second reason for moving the rejection of the Bill is, that I very strongly object to the form which it has taken. The Bill of last year was a very revolutionary measure. It uprooted the educational legislation of thirty-three years; it repealed sixteen Acts of Parliament, it repealed the whole of the Technical Instruction Act of 1899, and it repealed fifty sections and all the schedules of the Act of 1870. Notwithstanding the fact that it produced this enormous revolution one-third of last year's Bill was passed in this House under the operation of the closure, and without any discussion at all. Then the Government turns to London and applies this stupendous revolution to it in a Bill of only one clause, and it actually passes that clause by means of the closure. I say that that is treating London in a most contumelious manner and I strongly resent it. London education is as important, numerically and financially, as the education for the whole of Scotland. Lord Balfour of Burleigh has promised an Education Bill for Scotland next year, and I should like to know whether, when that Bill is introduced, it will be a Bill of one clause settling the whole education question by reference to another Bill. I do not suppose for a moment it will. I imagine that the Scotch people will demand a measure complete in itself—a measure that will set up local authorities elected *ad hoc* for suitable areas. As I have said before London has treated this Government very generously by returning fifty-four Ministerialists out of a total of sixty-two representatives, and I ask again why should it be treated in this contumelious way? I am aware that a great many Londoners deserve the treatment that they get. They are far too unconcerned and happy-go-lucky. Their sceptre of Empire is the *batôn* of the conductor of the Music Hall Orchestra. Their only text book is to be found in the words of the latest song by Marie Lloyd and Little Tich. Their highest aspiration is to "spot the winner" of the City and Suburban. Therefore they get the government they deserve. Although I am a London Member I cannot help feeling as I do when I remember how London is treated in this House.

Now I come to my last reason for opposing the Bill. I oppose the machinery of the Bill altogether. It is hopelessly bad. It is bound to break down, and I will again tell the Parliamentary Secretary why I think so. The Government have determined to destroy the School Board for London. It is to be destroyed because it has done its work too well. I see that its sons have become Senior Wranglers, and have taken very high positions at Oxford; they are occupying positions in which they were not originally born, as the phrase goes, and I imagine that that is one of the reasons why the School Board is to be destroyed. As the Parliamentary Secretary said on the First Reading, it has been guilty of "vaulting ambition"; for that reason it is to be destroyed, and the work is to be given to the London County Council. I have again and again endeavoured to describe the magnitude of this problem. Let me once more remind the Parliamentary Secretary and the Government that when you deal with the education of London you deal with a problem which involves the control of 2,000 schools and the direction of 20,000 teachers, as well as the education of 1,000,000 students and the expenditure of £4,000,000 sterling annually. It is a problem as large as is involved in the whole education of Scotland, and is three times as large as is involved in the education of Wales. The work is now to be added to the work of the London County Council, as to the members of which body Ministers have gone about this City asserting that they already have too much to do. I confess I cannot square the position taken up by the Government on this point. On the First and Second Reading, when I pointed out that the Government proposal would have the effect of doubling the work of a body which admittedly, from a Ministerial point of view, already have too much to do, the Prime Minister replied to me that the genius of his scheme was that they were going to devolve enormous powers on the Borough Councils. The right hon. Gentleman said that decentralisation was an absolute necessity of the situation, and that it was to take place by statute. The hon. Baronet the Member for Wiltshire, amongst many other speakers on the other side, also declared on the same point that the School Board had been over centralised, but that, under this scheme, there would be complete decentralisation, which would not involve so many meetings or the appointment of so many sub-committees, because the local bodies would take over much of the work formerly done by the School Board. I would like to ask the Parliamentary Secretary where is the decentralisation in the Bill now? There is absolutely none. It has gone, and, consequently, there remains no answer to my original contention that the County Council cannot do the work. How does the hon. Gentleman square the present form of the Bill with the original suggestion that the work could not be done by the County Council unless there were broad powers of devolution. With regard to the machinery, I view with the gravest apprehension the handing over of this matter as it now stands to the County Council. Already that body has found it necessary to establish seventy committees and sub-committees, which have held in all over 1,300 meetings. It has already quite enough to do. It is the tramway authority, the fire brigade authority, the main drainage authority, the parks authority, the asylums authority, and the weights and measures authority. It is responsible for carrying out great public improvements, for the enforcement of the Housing Acts, for the licensing of music halls, and for the issue of dancing licences. And all this on behalf of a population of 5,500,000.

How the County Council can be expected to undertake the work of the School Board, especially in view of the fact that the whole scheme of decentralisation has disappeared from the Bill, puzzles me. The Committee for educational purposes will have to be at least seventy-five strong, and I imagine that the County Council will insist that the majority, at least, shall be members of its own body. Thus there will be about forty County Councillors, who every day will receive one set of agenda papers calling them to Spring Gardens, and another set calling them to Victoria Embankment, where the meetings of the educational authority will be held. They clearly cannot be in both places at once, and, consequently, I imagine they will go to Spring Gardens, and practically the whole work of the education of London will be carried on by thirty-five persons who are not at all responsible to the ratepayers. I want in the most vehement manner to resist that. London people will not stand it, and we shall be compelled, sooner or later, to revive in some form or other the *ad hoc* authority, or else it will be necessary to increase the membership of the County Council by adding a third representative for each division. Only by some such means will it be possible for the work to be carried on by the representatives of the ratepayers instead of by thirty-five outsiders. I resent very bitterly indeed the way in which the Bill has been pushed through the House. I resent, too, the breach of faith of which the Prime Minister has been guilty in not giving us time to examine the Bill before the Committee stage was entered upon. I resent also the form of the Bill. I say that London should have a self-contained and complete measure. I think the machinery is hopeless and bound to break down. But the issue is now passing from our hands to those of the ratepayers of London. Happily, before the appointed day—the 1st May, 1904—there will be a County Council election, and I want to say quite deliberately that at that election we intend to fight this matter out to the bitter end. In the first place we propose to fight it out on the broad issue of the machinery of the Bill. I believe we can secure an overwhelming majority on the London County Council absolutely opposed to the present machinery as contained in this Bill, On the 28th April the County Council passed a Resolution which is only a faint indication of what the verdict of the London people will be next March. That Resolution set forth that the Council was strongly opposed to the scheme proposed by the Bill, and would prefer either the maintenance of the present system or the creation of one directly elected educational authority, specially elected for the purpose, which should have full and complete control over all grades of education. That Resolution was carried by sixty-four votes to sixteen. That will be the first issue on which we propose to take the opinion of the people of London, and I have no doubt we shall get an overwhelming majority in our favour. If feeling at present runs high over the destruction of the London School Board, I think that feeling will prove to be but merely child's play as compared with the popular indignation likely to be aroused in connection with the hopeless machinery provided in this Bill.

Again, I believe that the method of rate-aiding denominational schools is likely to prove a very burning question at the County Council election next March. There is in the country a great deal of irritation, deep-rooted and widespread, but slightly reflected in this House, as to this method of rate-aiding denominational schools, and it will in London surpass anything which either the Government or the Board of Education has yet experienced. I believe that the London people next March will return to Spring Gardens an overwhelming majority opposed both to the machinery of the Bill and to the method by which denominational schools are to be rate-aided. Members of the Government express mild surprise that there should be any irritation on the part of the people. There is no need for such surprise. We are going in London to take over 200,000 children now in denominational schools, and the maintenance of each child per year when the Act comes into operation will amount to 60s. Of that amount, according to the most generous estimate, denominationalists will find something like 2s. per child to up keep the fabric of the school. The value of the use of the rooms may be put roughly at 3s. per child, so that altogether the denominationalists will subscribe 5s. out of the 60s. The remaining 55s. will have to be subscribed by the public in the shape of rates and taxes, and then, while the denominationalists only pay one-twelfth of the cost, they are to be granted eight-twelfths of the management, while the public, who pay eleven-twelfths of the cost, will only supply four-twelfths of the management. The London people are very happy-go-lucky and indifferent; but they are greater fools than I take them to be if they stand that for any length of time. I repeat I believe we shall have an overwhelming majority against this method of rate-aiding the denominational schools. There can be no doubt as to what the view of the County Council is, for on the 28th April it passed a resolution earnestly protesting against being required by law to make rates to be applied in the maintenance of denominational schools not under public control and in the payment of the salaries of school teachers who, while they are paid wholly out of public funds, are subject to religious tests. I think many of the Unionist Members of this House will soon have cause to be sorry that they ever voted for this Bill. That Resolution, I may remind the House, was carried by sixty votes to ten.

Now I come to the third issue which we intend to lay before the people. We have 1,500 head teachers in the denominational schools of London. In the past they have been partly paid by voluntary contributions, and that might justify the imposition of religious tests. But after the passing of this Bill they are to be entirely and exclusively paid out of public funds, and we are going to insist, immediately that happens, that they shall be subject only to such tests as may be superimposed by the public who find the money. These are the three issues we are going to raise, and we are now going through an elaborate farce in either voting for or against the Third Reading of this Bill this afternoon. The matter really rests with the people of London. No doubt the Third Reading will be carried by a very large majority, but I repeat that many a London Unionist Member will be sorry before he has done that he ever put his hand to it in any shape or form. I give the Government fair warning, as far as I am concerned, that the London Progressives mean to fight this out to the bitter end, and mean to insist that the three simple claims I have indicated shall be respected and satisfied. First with regard to London education, a stupendous system involving the proper equipment of one out of ten of all the children of the British race all the world over, we mean to insist that we shall have such a board of management for London as shall be directly responsible to the ratepayers and capable of carrying out the great work. We shall, in the second place, insist that rate-aided denominational schools shall be controlled by those who find the bulk of the money, and, thirdly, we shall say that public servants maintained entirely out of public funds must only be subject to such tests as shall be imposed by a public authority. We shall claim the abolition of all religious theological tests, which often simply sap the fibre of the teacher, and are frequently, to all intents and purposes, merely a premium on hypocrisy. That will be our policy, and I have no doubt whatever as to the issue.

*MR. CHANNING (Northamptonshire, E.): I must ask the indulgence of the House if, in the few remarks I have to make, I do not deal so effectively as I could wish with the subject; the reason is that I have been very unwell of late. My hon. friend has said that the Third Reading of this Bill is likely to be carried by a large majority. That is extremely probable, for, although I do not see anything like a majority of the Members of this House present, we know perfectly well that there are battalions in reserve which will come forward and vote for whatever proposition the Government choose to submit. But I do appeal to the House to reconsider this Bill before it parts with it. It seems to me that to pass this Bill is to do a serious wrong to education. It is unjust to the ratepayers of London to impose this great burden upon them without guaranteeing to them a full equivalent in educational efficiency, which I venture to assert they will not get under this Bill. It is doubly unjust to the parents of hundreds of thousands of children in the Metropolis, who are physically placed in a worse position than children in other parts of the country, from the very central difficulty of maintaining high mental and physical efficiency among those who attend the schools in the poorer parts of London. I say that this Bill ought to be rejected, even at this last moment, and that hon. Members opposite ought to realise that the motive underlying it has not been education at all, but has been to give a fresh lease of life to what is admittedly an inferior type of school in this great area, and with a view of further extending and perpetuating clerical domination over the people of the Metropolis. The Act of last year may do some good in organising education in some of our rural districts, but no one will deny that in the great towns it will have a seriously reactionary and depressing effect on educational forces. I am assured by experts in many parts of the country that that anticipation is not exaggerated or ill-founded. This Bill is recasting the educational system of London for the benefit of the worst and smallest part of that system. No Bill affecting London within my recollection has ever been introduced into this House which has been so absolutely, so uniformly, and so universally condemned by everyone who has a right to say what is wanted for education in the Metropolis. The London County Council and many of the Borough Councils have expressed in most emphatic terms their dissent from the principle of this Bill, and in order to remind the House once more how strongly this great representative body feels on this question, I will read the Resolution—

> "This Council is strongly opposed to the scheme proposed by the Bill and would prefer either the maintenance of the present system or the creation of one directly elected educational authority, which shall have real and complete control over all grades of education."

I am aware that some of the worst features of this Bill have been modified. I agree that to a certain extent even this House represents the predominant common sense of the community outside, and has overruled in some points this extraordinary Ministry and its extraordinary majority. But still we are placed in this extraordinary position, that this is a Bill with which no one is satisfied. I have sat in this House for eighteen years, and I have heard many attacks made upon the efficiency and administrative capacity of the London County Council, and every proposal made by that Council has been riddled by attacks and undermined by intrigue by the very people who are now bringing forward this legislation. We know that hon. Members opposite are not satisfied with these proposals. It was clear from the Bill as introduced that the Government intended the County Council to have no real voice in the matter. They intended it to march in fetters, bound hand and foot, and unable really to control the destinies of education in London. The Government however have been compelled by the logic of the Act of last year to knock away those checks upon its action. On the other hand, the unanswerable arguments of my hon. friend the Member for North Camberwell have shown the House conclusively that it is physically impossible for the London County Council to efficiently carry out the proposals of this Bill. Therefore I am justified in saying that hon. Members opposite are not satisfied with this Bill because the Government have been compelled to place the power in the hands of a body hostile to their views; and hon. Members on this side are not satisfied with the measure because it leaves the London County Council in such a position that it is unable to deal as a representative, directly-chosen, democratic authority would deal with the problems of education under the operation of this Bill. Several alternatives have been suggested by my hon. friend; they have been suggested by the London County Council and by many other authoritative sources of opinion in London. One alternative is to leave the existing state of things alone. I read the other day the admirable report of the Technical Board of the London County Council, which is a splendid testimony to the educational value of that Board in dealing with the class of work in which it is engaged. We are all aware of the splendid work of the London School Board until it was paralysed by that absurd Cockerton conspiracy, and was thus prevented from giving the best education possible to the children entrusted to its charge. Therefore you have, in the existing state of things, the sound basis of an educational machine to go on effectively until we can get this directly-elected democratic authority which the London County Council has said will infinitely better discharge this duty than the London County Council itself as at present constituted. Then there is the alternative of remodelling the London County Council and electing an additional third of that body to deal with education. That is an alternative which I do not favour, but either of the alternatives I have mentioned would be infinitely better than the chaos in which education will really be handed over to officials to administer under the provisions of this wretched Bill.

This Bill should not be passed because it deprives women almost entirely of the right to be elected and to sit and work upon the educational authority in London. Another reason why the Bill should be rejected is because it is almost impossible to adequately represent labour upon the education authority of London if that authority is not directly elected by the people. This Bill tramples upon the religious feelings of the vast proportion of the Nonconformists in the Metropolis, and it deeply wounds their just religious susceptibilities. The measure also imposes religious tests upon teachers. I thought we had got rid of this question in the long fight of the London School Board when that atrocious scheme was concocted by some feather-headed fanatics some years ago and then decisively rejected by the electors of London at the poll. What right has this or any other Government to fan the flames of religious hatred and stir up religious controversy and animosity? Even this might be tolerable if it were accompanied by any real improvement in the educational machinery. But I believe you will see in London what you are only too likely to see in the great towns of Leeds, Manchester, Liverpool, Bradford, and in our country towns, namely, the symptoms of a decreasing interest in education and the lowering of the standard of education, which is a most serious matter for the future welfare of this country. You will see the same educational wreckage and shrinkage in the Metropolis unless you have an upheaval of public opinion, which I believe will be aroused before long and which will put your Board of Education in a strait-waistcoat, strangle your laws, and insist on administering them out of existence, even before the people have a chance of returning a majority to this House to reverse this policy and wipe those laws off the Statute-book. The other day the right hon. Gentleman the First Lord of the Treasury taunted us with bitter scorn for protesting against this Bill in the brief discussion on the first clause. I do not know whether the right hon. Gentleman is wholly blinded by the dilettante exclusion from his mind of all practical knowledge and the rational inferences which practical men naturally draw from practical knowledge, but he ought to know that the present Government has long since forfeited the confidence of the country, and the right hon. Gentleman has no right to speak of this Bill as representing the feelings of the people of London. These Education Bills have been forced through a Parliament elected on other issues. Therefore it has been a constitutional fraud to force these Bills through the House of Commons, and it is a bitter injustice to the nation, whom the Prime Minister and his colleagues have betrayed.

We fought this Bill and the Bill of last year on the question of principle and not of detail. We are fighting this question upon the principle which is interpreted by the man in the street in a broad commonsense way. There has never been any necessity for either of these Bills. I have never known a violent and determined attack upon an individual School Board or upon the School Board system at large which did not result in the promptest rally of the democratic forces to return a stronger Progressive majority to that Board, or which did not fail to turn out a reactionary majority and place a Progressive majority in its place. There have been no features in our educational system more noble than the participation of women and of those directly representing labour in the control of education in the past few years. That very fact has stimulated popular interest in education. The great co-operative bodies, the trades unions, and all the most thoughtful and active elements in the community have taken up education with spirit during the last ten years, and this has been largely due to the fact that labour representatives have had free access to the education authority. Therefore, any legislation which interferes with those forces which have been working so much good, which sponges them off the slate and constructs a fanciful and obviously less workable machine, which renders it more and more likely that the standard of education will fall and popular interest in education decrease, is one of the greatest crimes which any Ministry can commit, not only against future generations, but against the people of to-day. I have consequently great satisfaction in resisting, as I shall to the last, the passage of this Bill, and even now I appeal earnestly to the House to give some further consideration to this question. If this Bill could only be adjourned for one year, and if the Government would only have a General Election upon this issue, they would find these educational proposals condemned as misdirected, unjust, and wholly without the representative authority of the people, not only of the Metropolis but of the country at large. The Government would then find themselves compelled to adopt or acquiesce in legislation of a totally different kind.

Amendment proposed—

"To leave out the word 'now,' and at the end of the Question to add the words 'upon this day three months.'"—(*Dr. Macnamara.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'now' stand part of the Question."

MR. CROOKS (Woolwich): I join with my hon. friend who has just spoken in supporting the rejection of this Bill. I do so because every attempt to put into this measure amending clauses which would have offered greater facilities for education was ruthlessly ruled out of order because they were not in accordance with the Act of last year. I think in regard to educational machinery we were getting on very well in London as we were. The Technical Education Board was the first Committee which made an inquiry as to the necessity of technical knowledge in the poor districts of London, and I do believe that something useful is being done in this direction. I view with considerable concern the time when the people of London wake up and discover that this is a Bill, not for the improvement of education, but to hand education over to some irresponsible authority which will hand it over to permanent officials to carry out. Although I am a member of the London County Council I can quite understand that there is a limit even to its capacity. As has already been pointed out, the London County Council has forty Committees meeting every week. An ordinary business man finds it exceedingly difficult to attend every day in the week, and consequently he picks out the few afternoons which he can spare from his business to do this work. If you are going to add considerably to their present obligations by asking them to take up education, I ask, how is it possible for them to do it? Something must go undone. What is to go undone? Education is to go undone. If you want to inspire people with the idea that you are only actuated by one desire—the growth of an Imperial educated race—you are going the wrong way about it. You are simply keeping the people down. Many a time during my life, when I have suggested that there should be an opportunity given to every workman's child, I have been told that I should be content with the position in which the Lord has placed me. My answer to that has always been, Who is to decide that? The position of a man is that for which his capacities best fit him. This Bill leaves us where we are. We can learn the Catechism and remain subject to the control of people we are nearly tired of. Here and there you pick up a clever boy or girl, and you say, "See what we have done." But what are you doing to give the vast mass of children an opportunity to develop their brain power, which the nation is most in need of now? You curb it more and more. Because this Bill is merely one of new machinery you expect that it is going to do wonders, but I do not believe it will. You are going to make it a little worse and not a little better.

As a member of the County Council I have been elected for the moment to attend to some work in respect, it may be, of the bridges, or tunnels, or tramways of London. The question of transit is a burning one in London at present, and the people require the best brains they can get to carry out the scheme by which travelling facilities are provided. If you want me to take up education, I say, "My dear Sir, I know nothing about it. Bridges, tunnels, and tramways are as much as anyone can do." If I were to say that I intend to devote myself to the subject of education, the people would say, "Surely the time has gone past for that. We cannot afford to elect people who have to learn their business when we have people who thoroughly understand the educational needs of London." But by this Bill you are absolutely shutting them out You are practically blinding the people as to what you are fighting for. It is not an Education Bill at all. I suppose we shall be told, if not in this debate certainly on public platforms, that the Germans and Americans, and God knows who, are ever so much better educated than we are. Let me admit that if you like. You will be surprised if I tell you that I think the nation could well spend a good many thousand pounds in premiums for apprentices. When certain Amendments were put down when the Bill was in Committee, they were at once ruled out of order as having nothing to do with education. I would ask, Where does education begin and leave off? We have learned that this is an attempt to foist on the people of London an alteration of educational machinery which is a deliberate interference with the liberty of the subject. I would ask the hon. Baronet the Secretary to the Board of Education whether he can remember a time when a rate was enforced on the people for a Church which they did not want. What is now proposed by this Bill recalls the time when the rector went down among the people and used sometimes moral suasion and sometimes coercion with them to pay the rate. The people now say, "We are not going to pay for a dogma we do not believe in." There is an old story of a clergyman who went to a barber and asked him to pay the rate. The barber said—

> "I don't go to your church."

The clergyman answered—

> "There is a beautiful church and a beautiful service."

He was amazed when the barber sent him a bill for hairdressing and shaving. The clergymen objected to pay the bill having had no such service. The barber replied—

> "I have a good barber's shop, and if you do not care to come in and get shaved it is not my fault."

I want education to be real and not a sham, and I want the administration of it to be in the hands of people who are not a mere make believe. I am exceedingly anxious that every boy and girl in this country should have an equal opportunity of using his or her brains for the welfare of the country. How can that be done? We should have a discriminating power. Some boys and girls have capacity to go to the University to be trained as teachers, but it is quite evident that other boys and girls are suitable for other paths in life. I venture to say that a good sound English engineer is as important to our wellbeing as any Oxford don can ever be. I heard a nobleman who takes a keen interest in education say that unless we take up the question of the proper training of boys and girls we will degenerate into mere "hewers of wood and drawers of water." To call this an Education Bill is nothing more nor less than a fraud. You have an authority for education which is doing better than the one now proposed will ever do. The Bill certainly does nothing for education, and I shall do my best to get some Member to bring in a real Education Bill which will be for the benefit of the community rather than in the interest of a few ecclesiastics.

Mr. BRYCE (Aberdeen, S.): I agree very much with what has fallen from my hon. friend, that the Bill does nothing for education, but candour obliges me to admit that it is better than when it was brought in. It is not the same Bill. It presents very few points of contact with the original Bill. This is not in its principal features the Bill which was originally introduced by the Government. It is the Bill of my hon. friend the Member for South Manchester, and if he had been present I should have liked to compliment him for voicing the general sentiment of the House, which emphatically condemned the provisions in regard to Borough Council management. All that remains is the provision that they are to choose two-thirds of the managers and that they are to be consulted on the question of sites. The consultation on the question of sites is really very harmless. It cannot give any opening to jobbery. It cannot very much retard the proceedings if the local education authority is allowed to ask the Borough Council's opinion about sites The provision about the managers, I think, would be better away. The Borough Councils have no special knowledge, and, I think, a two-thirds proportion is too small to give them any real interest in it or to make them practically the education authority. These are mere planks out of the wreckage of the old Bill which have been fastened and nailed to the new Bill which belongs to the hon. Member for South Manchester. They are interesting historical survivals, but they have practically no functional value. Now, if the Bill is so much better by the excision of these pernicious elements which the commonsense of the House obliged the Government to drop—I should like to say that I do not wish to reflect on my hon. friend the Secretary to the Board of Education. I do not suppose he ever wished to give the Borough Councils the powers proposed by the original Bill. I gathered from the character of the defence that he frequently offered that he was arguing as warmly as he could for a cause which he knew to be wrong. It gives a great deal more pleasure to argue on behalf of a bad cause than a good one, because it affords all the more testimony to the powers of persuasion and extemporisation which the advocate is able to bring to bear.

Well, can we accept the Bill on the Third Reading ? It appears to me even now that it has three great faults. In the first place it extinguishes the School Board. I shall not repeat what was said on the Second Reading, but it is a matter of concern and surprise that a body against which no charge has been brought, which has accumulated a great body of experience, and which unquestionably enjoyed the confidence of the ratepayers, should now be suddenly extinguished. It has always struck me with some surprise, because the main object of the Bill, namely, to put the voluntary schools on the rates, could have been as well effected by retaining the School Board. So far from the School Board being prejudiced against the voluntary schools, I believe in its composition it was more favourable to them than the County Council, and more likely to give them indulgence than the County Council is likely to do. I cannot, therefore, understand why the extraordinary course of throwing overboard this useful body has been adopted. Perhaps we shall be told that it was for the sake of uniformity. London, as I have said, ought to be considered by itself. London is so much vaster, it presents so many different problems from even the greatest of the other municipalities in the country that it does not follow that the method which is good for Liverpool, Manchester, Birmingham, or Leeds, is necessarily the method to apply to London. The result has been that work is to be thrown upon the London County Council, which is already overburdened with very onerous and difficult functions. My hon. friends the Members for Camberwell and Woolwich have given very useful illustrations of the difficulties which a member of the London County Council will feel in future in doing his duty on education as well as on the other work already placed on a county councillor. I wonder if the House realises how vast is the work which we have thrown on the London County Council. These functions, which were renumerated just now, are old functions—very large and difficult, quite enough to occupy the whole time of a busy, active, practical man if he is to do his duty to the general body and to its Committees.

I wonder how much fresh work we are going to impose on the London County Council. Last year we created the Water Board, and we put a large number of members of the County Council on it to discharge very important functions. This year we are invited to pass the Port of London Bill, which will take another set of County Council members who will be quite new to their duties. There is a Committee sitting at present to investigate the very important question of London traffic, and anyone who has studied the question knows that it is extremely probable that in the arrangements to be made in the future for the traffic of London, and the regulation of that traffic, whether above or underground, there will have to be a Board constituted, on which members of the County Council will have to sit. Or perhaps the County Council itself will form the Traffic Board. How can the London County Council discharge all these old functions and these new functions, and also take up the great work of education which has been found to fully occupy the School Board for the last thirty years. In fact, as was observed by the hon. Member for Camberwell when the Bill was introduced, and when it was urged that the London County Council would not be able to undertake this education work, the answer was that the County Council would be relieved by the Borough Councils, who were to take over a large part of the work by the scheme of decentralisation, and therefore the County Council would not have an addition to its labours in the same sense as Manchester or Liverpool or Birmingham had. But that argument has completely disappeared, because the Borough Councils are entirely deprived of all functions of control or management. Therefore these must rest on the County Council alone, with the aid of the co-opted members. Of course I recognise that the County Council will have a majority on the Education Committee and be responsible for the decisions of that body, and the co-opted members will consequently give comparatively small relief to the County Council in the discharge of their work. I feel, therefore, in contemplating this question, that we are not at the end. I do not think it is possible that we can go on without fresh legislation. But unfortunately our experience in this House is that even where there is a clear case for fresh legislation, so many things may happen, so many political crises may arise, that it may be a long time before we can get new legislation, and that even a very bad system of legislation has to go on working for a prolonged period. I look with great anxiety on the fate of education in London during the next few years in the hands of a body which, on its own statement—for nobody has stated it more strongly than the County Council itself—will not be able to take it up efficiently.

The other aspect of the Bill is that in which it appears as an application and extension to London of the Act of last session. The First Lord of the Treasury, in the debate on the first clause a few days ago, spoke of the Act of last session as being a great educational reform, and he professed surprise that we should wish to prevent London having the benefit of this great educational reform. I am sure the right hon. Gentleman has persuaded himself that it is an educational reform. He has said it so often that he has come to believe it to be true; but those of us who consider that the Act of last session is an educational disaster instead of a reform must naturally object to its being extended to London, which has one-eighth of the population of Great Britain. What ought an educational reform to be? It ought to be simple, economic, efficient in its working, to proceed on constitutional lines, and to conform to justice. Now the Act of last session, which we are asked to apply to London by this Bill, is not simple, because it multiplies and complicates the confusion of authorities. It is not economic, because this multiplication of authorities involves a multiplication of expense. It is not efficient, because it throws upon an unfit body, already overburdened with work, a very grave and difficult subject, and because it draws in an insufficient popular impulse to be associated with the work of education. It is not set on constitutional lines, because it imposes the burden of supporting the voluntary schools without giving powers of popular management. Finally, it is not just, because it leaves one half of the teaching profession in an unfair position in regard to religious tests, and it excludes one half of the young people of the country from the position of head master. These objections are not objections made, as the Prime Minister seems to suppose, mainly on ecclesiastical or controversial grounds. They are made on educational grounds. It was on educational grounds, quite as much as any other, that we objected to the Act of last year; and if the Prime Minister were here I would, for the twentieth time, repeat that it was not purely on religious grounds, but because we believed the Act of last year was educationally indefensible, that we have always objected to it. It does not secure popular education; it has not provided for the grouping of all kinds of schools; it does not require proper provision to be made for secondary education; it does not provide for dealing with those large sums of money which we have all over the country available for educational purposes in the endowments. The Government, certainly the First Lord of the Treasury, have not really appreciated the objections we have taken to the Bill on educational grounds, and I do not think that he does appreciate the objections which we take on religious grounds either.

I listened with great interest yesterday to what the First Lord of the Treasury said about the Irish Land system. He told us that the Irish Land system was the worst in the world. I could not help thinking what a pity it was that he and the great Party which he leads had not come to that conclusion twenty years ago. If they had done so how much bitterness and strife, how much misery and misfortune to Ireland and to England would have been saved! Therefore, I hope that the day will come—these are the days of open minds—when the Prime Minister's mind will be open even to the complaints that are made by the Nonconformists in regard to the Education Act; and perhaps twenty years hence, when we have to state that the educational system of England, on its religious side, is the worst system in the world, then he will reply that that was not recognised twenty years ago. And yet the right hon. Gentleman says now that the Nonconformists are ungrateful for the boon he desires to bestow! At any rate the right hon. Gentleman must realise that he has aroused a strong force of vehement opposition to the Act of last year which shows that that Act must have touched the deepest strings of religious passion. The passive resistance movement will spread to London, and we cannot look upon that but with regret. Anyone must be blind who does not see that the Act of last session has stirred up a religious controversy which the Government last year were unwilling to believe. The Act of last year, which we are going to extend to London now, was not a settlement, it was a raising of the whole controversy. It does not close the controversy; it opens a new controversy, and those who desire our educational system to be efficient, well-ordered, just, and progressive, cannot possibly acquiesce either in the Act of last year or in the Bill which we are asked to read a third time to-day. We shall have to appeal to the people. It is only from the people that any help can come now to reverse legislation which we heartily and sincerely condemn. And we believe that when the people obtain an opportunity of declaring their opinion, that opinion will sweep away this legislation and enable us to begin to make a real advance in a progressive and truly national system of education.

MR. LOUGH (Islington, W.): My right hon. friend commenced his able speech by pointing out, what is perfectly true, that the Bill is entirely and absolutely different from what it was when introduced in the House. That is the serious complaint which I desire to make against the Government. We cannot find any principle in anything the Government do. If the Bill was to assume the shape in which it has passed through the House, there was no reason why London should not have been dealt with in the Bill of last year. We were confident after what was said last year that a separate Bill suitable to London would be introduced. The Government brought in a separate Bill, but what has become of it? It is scattered, as the right hon. Gentleman said, to the four winds. We have a right to complain of the Government's action. The time of the House during all these long sittings might have been saved if the Government had only made up their mind as to the action they were going to take. I think this kind of thing has been carried too far by the Prime Minister. No one more strongly contended that a separate system was necessary for London than the Prime Minister himself; and, as my hon. friend the Member for North Camberwell pointed out in his speech, even the Prime Minister insisted that a large devolution of powers from the County Council was necessary in London. Then, Sir, if the Prime Minister laid down that principle, why has he not stuck to it? Why does he not stick to any principle? He brings in a Bill based on the principle he himself laid down; we all discuss it; he finds that it will not stand upright, even if not discussed at all, and then he says, "Very well, then change it, do what you like with it." We put it into an entirely different shape, and hon. Gentlemen opposite accept the new Bill for which the Government is not responsible, and which is based on an entirely different principle. We have had too much of this kind of thing. I think that a Government in this House ought to be held responsible that the principles they lay down, and the statements they choose to make, should not be departed from by them in this frivolous and trifling way.

I am glad that I have an opportunity of opposing this Bill, even in its new form; for although the Bill has ceased to be the measure which the Government attempted to adopt, it remains the Bill of 1902; and when I say that that Bill is unsuitable to London, I am only saying to-day what the Government said yesterday. They themselves agreed that the Bill of 1902 would not suit London. We agreed then, and we agree now, as to that, and are consistent, but the Government are now content to apply the Act of 1902 to London. All the old reasons which were employed six months ago with regard to this matter exist to-day. The Act of 1902 will not suit London; it was not devised to suit London. The constitution of London is quite different to the constitution of all the other counties in England and Wales for which the Bill of 1902 was specially devised. Therefore the Government will find that they are wrong again; and that it would have been better for them to have stuck to their first principle, which was to bring in a different scheme for London. We complain that when they brought in a different scheme they did not stick to it, and either fall themselves or let the Bill fall altogether. They have now brought in a Bill for which no one is responsible. Who has invented it? My right hon. friend who has just spoken said it was the hon. Member for South Manchester, but the hon. Member is not the Prime Minister; he did not plan the Bill, he brought in casual Amendments. My right hon. friend is, however, very near the truth when he says that the Bill is more his than anyone else's. We need not, however, go to Manchester for educational ideas with regard to London. There are a great many people in London who are constantly thinking over these matters. We have the School Board for London, containing members—men and women—who have devoted their lives to the solution of the right understanding of those principles which should govern education in London. We have got the County Council for London, and we have Members of Parliament for London. The opinions of all these might have been taken with regard to the scheme to be applied to London; and we ought not to have a patched up structure like this forced on the Metropolis by the ingenuity of the hon. Member for South Manchester.

What has London to say about this Bill? From the day the Bill was introduced until to-day, the opinion of London has grown strong and yet stronger against the Bill. You say you are going to push this Bill through. No doubt you are. When the division bell rings the supporters of the Government will come in and push it through. But no one in London likes it. The Bill that was introduced was a bad Bill; but the Bill you are going to push through to-day is worse still. I speak now in the name of these bodies in London which are manned by supporters of the Government, and which do all they can for the Government, and I say—and I challenge hon. Members opposite to deny the accuracy of the statement—that these bodies believe that the Bill, in the form in which it is presented to-day, is not suited to London. Not one of them likes it. Yet although they dislike it, and we dislike it, some secret mysterious force in this House is going to thrust this Bill on London. The London County Council is as strongly in opposition to the Bill to-day as it ever was. Here we raise a great constitutional question. I do not believe that the Government would have dared to pass the Bill of 1902 if all the County Councils of England and Wales had been against it, and if they had sent up a plain resolution that they disliked the Bill. If that resolution was passed in each Council by a majority of fifty-eight votes to seven, even a Government which will dare everything would not have dared to thrust the Bill of 1902 on those Councils. Nothing of the kind, however, took place. Many of the Councils were in favour of the Government Bill; and there was no organised opposition to it. But it is quite different in London. The London County Council is the one body that represents in the most thorough manner the whole area to be covered by the Bill. The London County Council is almost unanimous in its repudiation of the Bill, and in its fear of the responsibilities and duties which will be thrust upon it. Then the School Board for London is solid in its opposition; and it is most remarkable that even the Common Council of the City instructed the two Members for the City to do everything in their power to oppose the Bill at every stage in its present forms. Where are those two hon. Members to-day? I think they ought to be here doing their duty. They may think it more complacent to support the Government; but I think hon. Gentlemen opposite will find that there may be too much of supporting the Government through thick and thin, and that a little more devotion to principle and a little less support of the Government might be more useful to Members themselves. Further, the Borough Councils do not like the Bill. But all the local authorities in London have been set at absolute defiance by the course the Government have taken, and are in hostility to the Bill. I think it is a great pity that no attention has been paid to the complaints of London.

We never knew what the Bill was to be until it was in Committee. That was the third stage; and the Bill that emerged from Committee was as different to the Bill that went into Committee as black is to white. There were only two other stages, the Report and the Third Reading; and I think the Government ought to have shown more respect for London opinion on these stages. No attention was paid to the opinions expressed at the great meetings at Hyde Park and the Albert Hall, or to the unanimous feeling of opposition to the Bill in London. I do not know why the Government should go on in this way. It is evident they do not like the Bill themselves; they have not managed to make it more agreeable to London; yet it is to be forced on London by the weight of the Government majority. I think this is a great pity, and I think that the evils which may follow in London, should the Government adopt this course, will involve very great responsibility on the members of the Government. They ought not to have been blind to the movement in the country with regard to the Act of 1902; and there was no need to force on the London Bill until they saw how the passive resistance movement and the open hostility movement would develop. The education of London could be carried on for another year or two until we had a little more experience. I put this argument before the Government, that, considering the hostility which the Act of 1902 has excited in the country, they ought to have hesitated before applying it to London. As a supporter of the Government said, if we are going to have a row in the country let us have a row in London too. I should not be surprised if the Government were to be gratified in this respect; and I believe that the row in London will be far greater than the row in any other part of the country, and that the whole policy of the Government will be repudiated. There is ample evidence which makes it likely that this will occur. The London School Board has been the most creditable School Board in the country; it has been steadily growing in popular favour, and London is proud of it. This Government has distinguished itself from the very beginning by a considerable degree of hostility towards the School Board; it created the situation which it now assumes it is necessary to meet by this Bill, by checking the School Board in its educational work, and by displaying hostility to it. The people of London will remember this against the Government. There are on the School Board men and women who are known only for their work in connection with education; and London highly appreciates their devotion. The Cockerton case arose out of an effort on the part of the supporters of the Government, and the Government themselves to check the School Board—[AN HON. MEMBER: No, no.] I am astonished at the hon. Member. Mr. Cockerton was only a bogey at the best; he was set up to shield hon. Members opposite who desired to deal a deadly blow at the School Board, and he succeeded. He made a situation, and rendered it impossible for the School Board to build pupil teacher centres which are absolutely necessary for the development of education in London. Then the Government said that something must be done, having created the difficulty themselves. This revolutionary measure is the result. The whole plot is plain and open to the people of London, and the tone London has adopted from first to last has proved that what I am saying is true.

This Bill is just the same as the Bill that has been passed for the country. It is open to all the evils of the Bill of 1902; and I believe that those evils will be graver in the case of London than throughout the country generally. In the country the majority of the children, except in Wales, were not being educated under the School Board system, but under the voluntary school system. In London, however, the great majority of children are being educated by the School Board. I must say one great blot on the memory of the hon. Gentleman in charge of this Bill will be that he has not displayed any great feeling for the School Board. The people for London had seen no reason why the School Board should be done away with in this way, and better cause still remains for its maintenance than for its abolition, and far better cause remains for its continuance than there was for the continuance of the School Boards in the country. All the difficulties with regard to the Free Churches and the Nonconformists in the country exist in London, but the Nonconformists regarded the School Board for London with greater friendliness perhaps than the School Boards in various parts of the country. The schools maintained by the Free Churches before the London School Board came into existence were all given up to the School Board because they found it met all their requirements. We have done all we could to prevent this Bill being passed, but after all we are only nine out of sixty Members for London, and for some reason that nine is not able to throw all their force into the opposition to this Bill. This Bill is utterly unsuitable to London, but for some reason the Government has persevered in a reckless and unconstitutional way, and we are unable to look at the Bill as it now is with less alarm than we did when it was first introduced.

*MR. BULL (Hammersmith): The question whether education is wanted either in the country or in London is not a question for a Third Reading debate, but I hold it was the duty of a strong Government to carry measures which are admittedly wanted. Anyone would admit that a Government with a majority of only thirty or forty at its back could not possibly have carried this

Bill; but the Government having put its hand to the plough with regard to the education of the country was bound to deal with London. It is perfectly clear that all over the country the School Boards had failed to raise enthusiasm on behalf of education. In London fewer and fewer people voted for the School Board, and it is clear, whatever the reason may be, that the power of the School Board was declining. It was necessary that fresh enthusiasm should be infused into national education in London. That the London School Board has done good in the past, is certain, but on the other hand there have been religious controversies and other things with regard to the School Board which have not endeared it to London as a whole. It is alleged by hon. Members opposite that it is a shame to place the conduct of education on the shoulders of the London County Council, because they have already enough to do. Again and again we heard that in the course of these debates; but we heard shortly before, that the London County Council was trying all it could to get the question of London water into its hands, in addition to which it has several times tried to get all the tramway systems into its hands; it is also in favour of managing a steamboat service on the River Thames (a thing of which I ought to say, parenthetically, I am thoroughly in favour); all this goes to show the avidity of the London County Council for work. Its enthusiasm is high and it is ready to take all the work that is given to it. The London County Council was created for whatever duties might be cast upon it, and I feel certain that the London County Council will not fail in its duties, but will loyally undertake them and carry them out. As an old member of the London County Council I may say in the early stages of this Bill some of the members of the Progressive party came to me—[Cries of "Name."]—Mr. Sidney Webb, Dr. Bateman Napier, and other old educationists of the London County Council, and entered into negotiations with regard to this Bill, and when it is suggested that the London County Council as a whole are thoroughly against this measure I deny it, and say there will be found to be a large majority in its favour who firmly believe that the education of London will be far better in the hands of the London County Council than in the hands of the School Board. With regard to the unfair attacks on Mr. Cockerton, it is not usual in England to question the decision of judges, or in business or politics to attack auditors, but Mr Cockerton has been attacked. It is said there was a conspiracy, and that he was put forward by the Government to fight this question, and very bad motives were attributed to him. That is a very serious thing. I do not know what the House may think of the matter, but I have never known, in all the years that Mr. Cockerton has been in that service, any suggestions raised as to his probity, and I think the unworthy manner in which Mr. Cockerton's name has been dragged into this debate is to be deprecated.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE (Carnarvon Boroughs): Any hon. Gentleman who still believes the present Ministry to be a strong Government is quite capable of supporting the Third Reading of the Education Bill. I should like to ask one question of the hon. Member who supports this Bill so strongly, I should like to know whether at the last General Election he took his constituents into his confidence as to his intention of abolishing the London School Board and putting denominational schools upon the rates. I do not wish to be hard on the hon. Gentleman, but I do not think he has been quite fair to his constituents in the matter of this belated attack of inefficiency and religious squabbles on the London School Board which he now says justifies a strong Government in taking this action. I think he should have informed his constituents beforehand.

*MR. BULL: I did.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE: The hon. Member did tell his constituents he was in favour of abolishing the School Board and putting the denominational schools on the rates.

*MR. BULL: I said I was in favour of abolishing the School Board.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE: And no more! The hon. Gentleman in that case is rather worse than his colleagues; they said nothing, but he concealed half the truth, which is unfair to those supporting him. With regard to his defence of Mr. Cockerton I think many hon. Members on that side will agree with him. Mr. Cockerton has done their work well, they ought to support him. But I may point out that the hon. Gentleman who is supposed to be at the bottom of the whole matter was a member of the Committee who——

*MR. SPEAKER pointed out that though an attack on Mr. Cockerton had been made and answered, the question whether Mr. Cockerton was right or wrong was not the question before the House.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE: I was not, Sir, pointing out whether he was right or wrong, I was merely stating that this Bill is the result of the Cockerton judgment, which restricted the School Boards and prevented them going on with technical and secondary education.

* MR. SPEAKER: That is all very remote on the Third Reading of this Bill.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE: That, Sir, is a matter of opinion, but if you say so I will not pursue the subject. It is a matter in the cognisance of the House. We have now got a Bill which completes the educational settlement for both England and Wales. This is a supplement of the Bill of last year which covers the educational settlement of the whole of the country. The country has had fifteen months to consider it. It was unpopular when it was first introduced, but it was nothing like so unpopular then as it is at the present moment. It has grown in unpopularity as month succeeded month. I remember it being said when it was first introduced that the country had arrived at a hasty conclusion with regard to this Bill; that the country had not grasped what an excellent measure it was; and that when it dawned on the country they would be convinced that it was a good Bill. What has happened? As time went on the opposition to this Bill has grown in intensity.

MR. DOUGHTY (Great Grimsby): No, no!

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE: The hon. Member for Grimsby will have his opportunity by-and-bye, but my experience when I was invited down to Grimsby the other day, not to support the hon. Member, by the way, was that feeling was very strong even among the supporters of the hon. Member himself. That is the feeling, so far as I can gather, throughout the country. Last year the supporters of the Government were able to bring together a meeting at the Albert Hall to support a Bill with which London had nothing to do; but this year when there is a Bill of London itself a demonstration in its support cannot be organised anywhere. Not only has the feeling against the Bill grown, but the feeling in its favour has weakened from week to week. Where are the London Members who ought to be supporting it? County Councils in Wales feel so strongly on the matter that they refuse to levy a rate until the question has been settled by the judgment of the country. Here is an indication of how the feeling is growing. In Carmarthenshire the Committee decided to levy a rate, but the agitation in the country was so strong that the County Council have reconsidered the position, and I have just received this telegram:—

> "Carmarthenshire County Council refuse to levy rate, 38 votes to 13."

And that is against the advice of their Committee, on which there are two or three very influential men. That shows how the feeling is deepening, and I see no signs of its abatement. I do not charge the hon. Baronet with the responsibility of this Bill. He came in afterwards to help this strong Government through their difficulties. But does he really think this is going to be a settlement, even for a generation. Several attempts have been made to distract and divert attention from the question. The right hon. Gentleman the late President of the Birmingham Education League, the Colonial Secretary has made the attempt, but without any real success, even in London. The meetings which have been held recently show that London is quite as keen about this subject as ever. The Government will never settle the education question until they have dealt with the religious difficulty. That has been the mistake of the Government. The cause of the retardation of education is this religious strife. The country is divided into two great camps, each fighting the other. You have two great systems of education—the sectarian and the non-sectarian. The supporters of the one system are fighting the supporters of the other, and each side is doing its best to impoverish the resources of the other, with the result that education has not made the progress it otherwise would have made. This country, probably the richest in the world, can the least afford to do without a good system of education, because it is really fighting for its life commercially, and education is the sole weapon by which victory can be secured, and yet we are not up to the standard of our great rivals, Germany and the United States, or even of Switzerland, which perhaps would not be regarded as a rival. Why is it? Because in those countries they have settled the religious difficulty, and all the educational enthusiasm is devoted to the proper machinery without anything to retard progress. If anything is to be done in this country a settlement must be arrived at which should be regarded as satisfactory by nine out of every ten people in the country, and I believe that is possible. The hon. baronet must realise by now that this Bill will not be a settlement. It has simply aggravated the difficulty and embittered the controversy. The religious strife and contention in education is tenfold what it was three or four years ago, and that is the result of a Bill which was supposed to be a settlement.

Why cannot the Government even now apply their minds to doing something to meet the difficulty? What is the real difficulty? There is a real and an ostensible object in all this religious business in education. I will not say which is the real and which the ostensible, but there is at any rate a desire for patronage which enters into certain minds. I do not say that that is the dominant instinct, but there is undoubtedly with a large body of clergy a real desire to obtain patronage for their particular denomination. That ought not to be encouraged. It is not fair that any denomination should secure, at the expense of the State, the patronage of, say, 1,200 head teacherships in London and 20,000 in the country. Another thing which I am sure all parties in the House would deprecate is anything in the nature of proselytism. Proselytism of the most degrading kind has been going on. There is a proselytism which is effected by means of approaching the intelligence, by converting the mind. Of that all I will say is, that it is not right that the machinery of the State should be used for that purpose, or that the funds of the State, to which men of all creeds and denominations and men of no denomination at all contribute, should be used for the purpose of missioning for any sect. But that is not the worst form of proselytism. There is the proselytism by means of material inducements being held out to people to abandon the sect or creed to which they belong in order to attach themselves to another, and that is the form associated with the denominational schools system. In London there are probably 5,000 or 6,000, and in the country 70,000 appointments in denominational schools, and these have been used ruthlessly for the purpose of bringing Nonconformist children over to the fold of the Church of England purely from material motives. That is a monstrous system, and the country ought not to encourage it. It produces a sort of exasperation and irritation which makes it perfectly impossible to induce men of different creeds to co-operate as they ought for the advancement of education. It is the same thing that one often hears about missionaries abroad. The irritation against them is produced not so much by the fact that they teach or preach doctrines with which the bulk of the people do not agree, as by the fact that some missions undoubtedly use material inducements to bring over converts.

We shall never get a good educational system until we get rid of this proselytising element. Is it possible for this to be done? Can we not meet the views of men who are really desirous of giving religious education to their children, and at the same time get a system of instruction which should be under popular control and which will commend itself to the vast majority of the people of the country. I say it can be done. It has been done in the colonies and in every other country in the world. Why should it not be done in this country, which prides itself on its power to arrive at a practical issue on all great controversies ? This Bill does not afford a settlement; it satisfies nobody. In London you have large areas served by sectarian schools, while the bulk of the people are outside the communion of that particular Church. The *Daily News* census proves that. It is not that they are Nonconformists, or Catholics, or Jews, but that they are outside the communion of the Church of England. We have no right to dictate to them that they should have a creed, or should be registered as members of a certain creed. In such districts the control of education is in the hands of a sect comprising a minority of the people. That is not fair, and it is not for the good of education. Take England as a whole. You have what is called the "8,000 parishes" case, although the Prime Minister put it at 5,000. In each of those parishes the only school is a school belonging to a particular sect, teaching doctrines which are believed by one sect, and members of all other sects are practically excluded from the patronage in connection with those schools and from the privileges which those schools confer. That cannot possibly last. The members of the Church of England itself are not satisfied with the settlement. They point to districts in which there are only Board schools, in which a religion is taught with which they do not agree, and they say that that is a hardship upon them. The present system is so devised that it does not satisfy any section of the community. Why on earth, then, should the Government bring in a Bill to perpetuate and strengthen that system instead of so amending it that it would commend itself to the people.

There is no doubt that the enthusiasm of the Church of England for the Bill has evaporated. The only section of the population who do not complain of it are the Catholics, and they are a comparatively small section of the community. The reason the Church of England have lost their enthusiasm for the Bill is clear. The Kenyon-Slaney clause took away their enthusiasm because it put them in practically the same position in their own schools as in the Board schools. Their complaint against the undenominational religion of the Board schools was that it was framed by six or seven members of the School Board—that it was a State-made or rather a Board-made religion—though it is peculiar that they should complain of a State made religion. It took a long time to abolish purgatory, and I am not sure that the other place would not also have been abolished except for the fact that they would not have known quite where to locate the dissenters. It is now left to six managers to decide what religion shall be taught in the school. It is the Kenyon-Slaney business that killed the enthusiasm for the Bill, and when the hon. and gallant Member for Shropshire wrote that clause I am sure he never realised how much mightier the pen was than the sword, for he has practically ruined this Bill from the Church of England point of view. In schools all over the country you will have six managers framing a syllabus, each making a religion for themselves. In some schools you will have the Ritualistic catechism and in others the Evangelical, and the hon. and gallant Member for Shropshire has himself with one stroke of the pen created thousands of little religious sects in every town in England. I should like to know where there is a friend of this Bill left. There is the Treasury Bench and there is only one left there. There has been no agitation for this Bill, no meetings in support of it, either inside or outside the House, and Members of Parliament have been apologising for it and saying that this is a strong Government and it must do something singularly wicked and unpopular in order to show how strong it is.

How long does the hon. Baronet think this settlement is going to last ? It cannot last, and the Secretary to the Board of Education knows it. It is officially announced that this Parliament is coming to an end in March next. I think it ought to come to an end on the first of April. No Minister for Education can continue this settlement. The real interest is outside, and we are all inquiring in different parts of the country not into our own minds but into the minds of our constituencies. Why does the hon. Baronet not consider countries which have succeeded in settling this thing, and where experience has proved their system to be a success? I deny the right of a parent to dictate to the State what shall be taught in a school. It is said that a parent has a right to claim what dogma shall be taught to his children, but he has no more right to do that than he has to dictate what political principles shall be taught to his children A parent has as much right to say: "You must teach my children an honest trade" as he has to insist that a particular dogma shall be taught. There is no dogma in this country which is the dogma of the majority. Ours is not a country like Germany, with Catholics in one quarter and Protestants in another. We are not like Holland, where you have Calvinists and Catholics. The people of this country are split up into innumerable sects, not one of which has a preponderating proportion of the population in its ranks. In London there is no sect which is predominant, and even the Church of England has not a majority of the population. In Scotland the Presbyterians have it all their own way, and although they are split up into different sects they all believe the same thing as to their ultimate destination. The people of London are divided even about that. It is no use quoting Scotland to us, because there they are all of the same mind. You cannot give denominational instruction at the expense of the State to one sect without doing an injury to the rest, and the Board of Education must recognise that. What is the good of calling these schools sectarian, because they are not sectarian in anything except patronage and the creed they teach? They are really local schools of a particular district. This Bill gives the control of education in one district to the particular denomination which happens to be the first in planting a school there. That is not fair to anybody and not right from an educational point of view.

I would suggest that we should try the colonial plan, where the people have absolute public control over every school to which the State subscribes. The schools should be managed and controlled by the State, and there should be no religious tests in the appointment of teachers. Scotland would not tolerate for a moment the system they had got in this Bill. Several hon. Members opposite have voted to impose upon London a system which they would not stand in Scotland. We never impose a religious test upon the appointment of teachers in Scotland. Both in Scotland and in Wales if a teacher is a good man we appoint him. In one particular institution in Wales when we came to select a teacher not long ago we appointed a clergyman of the Church of England simply because he was the best man. We do not consider what sect or profession he belongs to or whether he is in or out of holy orders. That is just how popular control will work. As a matter of fact the majority of the teachers in the Board schools of England and Wales are Churchmen, and hundreds of the teachers in the Board schools in Wales belong to the Church of England. Recently a Mr. Vince went down to the West of England and said there was not a single Board school teacher in Wales who belonged to the Church of England. All I can say is that I hope that gentleman's pamphlets will be more reliable than that statement. The Bishop of St. Asaph made an inquiry into this question, and he found that 850 teachers in the Board schools of Wales were Churchmen. That inquiry influenced the Bishop's judgment, and now he is prepared to trust to popular control, and he has acted upon those facts. Why do not hon. Members opposite trust the men belonging to their own community? If their teachers are good men they will come out on the top. They will be given every facility for teaching their dogmas. We offered this arrangement to the Church people in Wales and they have accepted it. We told them that if they would give us popular control we would give them every facility for religious teaching outside school hours. This arrangement has been accepted without any qualification by the County Councils of Wales. It is a very extraordinary thing that the first demand they made in Wales was that the religious instruction should be upon the same syllabus as that of the London School Board. I am perfectly certain that the vast majority of the Nonconformists of this country would be delighted to give other denominations those facilities. There are plenty of facilities to get religious education if the parents desire it, and if they do not desire it, why should we compel them to have it? This matter is entirely in the hands of the parents themselves. Personally I object to compulsory powers being used to force children to accept the dogmatic instruction of any sect, because the only basis for a sectarian training must be the desire of the parent himself. Where the parent desires this instruction it should be given, and if he does not desire it you should not use the machinery of the State to force children to be taught any particular religious instruction. This is the last appeal I will make to the hon. Baronet upon this question. I ask him whether he does not think it is possible for him to propose some sort of settlement which will be acceptable to all reasonable men who have been thinking this subject out. We have proved in Wales that we can settle this question, and the majority of the Elders of the Church accepted our terms. I hope the hon. Baronet will do something of this kind, instead of prolonging this strife, which is creating so much bitterness throughout the land, and which is thwarting educational progress as well.

*THE PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION (Sir WILLIAM ANSON, Oxford University): I will willingly make a present to the Opposition of such satisfaction as may be caused by the change which the Bill has gone through in the course of its progress in the House. There were two principles laid down by the Prime Minister on the Second Reading of this measure. One was, that the Bill would provide an educational authority for London not elected for educational purposes only, but that the principle of municipalisation adopted in the Act of last year should be followed in this Bill. The other was, that the Metropolitan boroughs were to have some voice in the educational work of London. The part originally assigned to those boroughs was very different from what it is now. I was under no illusion as to the difficulty of carrying such a measure in the House. I think it might, if accepted in its original form, have worked well, and worked better than hon. Members were prepared to believe, but I was quite aware of the probable jealousy of the County Council and the Borough Councils, and of the certainty that hon. Members on this side at any rate would comment unfavourably on the departure from the principles of the Act of last year, and the assignment to the London County Council of a position different from that in which other County Councils were placed I was prepared for that. I cannot say that on the whole I regret the changes that have taken place in the Bill in the course of its progress through the House. It is said that it is no longer the Bill of the Government, but the Bill of my hon. friend the Member for South Manchester. No doubt we accepted the Amendments of my hon. friend which gave the boroughs the part substantially they now occupy in the Bill. I am glad to give him all the credit which is due for having brought forward on the Report Stage, in a workable form, Amendments which will enable the Bill to work more smoothly than it otherwise might have done. What is the result? The London County Council is, as it was when the Bill was first introduced, the local education authority. The boroughs have some part in the work, but not the part given originally to them—a small part, it is true, but an appreciable part in the work of London education. What has surprised me in the course of our debates is that there has been a curious hostility displayed to the London boroughs by hon. Members on both sides of the House. The hon. Member for Poplar besought me to eliminate the boroughs altogether, and my hon. friend the Member for East Nottingham has dogged their steps through the progress of the Bill with the cold hostility and remorseless activity which actuate a detective, while the hon. Member for West Islington was never tired of impressing upon us the ignorance and incompetence of Islington in all matters of education, and the disinclination of the Borough Council to have anything to do with the education of the children in the borough. Nevertheless, we have adopted in the Bill the principle of the local management of the schools, and we have secured the predominance of the County Council. We have secured also the presence of women on the boards of management and the presence of the former managers of the schools. The Bill, therefore, in its present form is a workable measure, and I do not regret altogether the form which it now assumes.

But now I come to the various larger objections which have been made to the principle of the Bill. The first is as to the extinction of the School Board. Well, the School Board as a corporate body and as the authority for elementary education in London will no doubt disappear, but, as in the case of the other School Boards of the country, one hopes that the educational experience of the School Board will not be lost, and that in another form they will take part in the work of the London County Council and the Education Committee of that County Council. It may be hoped that the members of the School Board who have occupied themselves to such good purpose with the elementary education of this great city will still find ample scope for their exertions. Then it is complained that the purpose of the Bill has been to place the voluntary schools on the rates. I do not admit for a moment that that is the purpose. No doubt it has been the result of the Bill, but it is following out the measure of last year in bringing the voluntary schools under the control of the local education authority, and giving them at the same time that assistance which the other schools receive for their maintenance and for the effectual carrying out of their educational work. Is it not desirable that the voluntary schools shall be brought under the scrutiny of the local educational authority? Is it not desirable that they should no longer be able to plead the difficulties in the way of maintenance as an excuse for indifferent and unsatisfactory buildings? Is it not an advantage to secular instruction in the voluntary schools that they should be brought under the direct control of the local education authority? I say in these matters the levelling up of the voluntary schools and the bringing of the whole of the education of London under one control is, from the educational point of view, a distinct advantage to London, as I believe this system is becoming an advantage throughout the country at large.

But there are objections with which it is more difficult to deal, because they take the form of misrepresentation—not, I am sure, intentional—of the purport of the principal Act, and possibly this Act also. There is the constant assertion of the imposition of tests upon the teachers. We are told that this is a form of proselytising, and that teachers are induced to leave their original faith and become members of the denomination which has teacherships to offer, and which gives a better prospect of advance in their profession. It is suggested even that the subscription to some form of denominational belief is required. There is nothing like a test, except in the one case to which I have referred more than once in the course of the debates, where the head teacher is required by the trust deed of a school to be a member of a particular denomination. I do not believe that is so formidable, and it is the only case in which denominational requirements are specifically insisted upon. Beyond that the managers are free, in respect to all teacherships, to appoint whom they please. There have been from time to time comparisons made between the old system of tests and the probability—for it is nothing more—that denominational managers will appoint denominational teachers. Now, what is the difference? What was the old system of subscription? Take the case with which I am most familiar—that of my own University. A definite subscription was required in order that you might get the full benefit of being a member of the Corporation of the University, or of the corporate body of a college. These tests are happily abolished; but it must be borne in mind that subscription indicating ahhesion to a particular faith has nothing whatever to do with one's position either as a member of the University or as a fellow of a college, whereas the relation of teachers and managers is that of employed and employers. Even in a University or college where there are no tests, if that college were engaging a lecturer on divinity it would surely inquire whether he was a Roman Catholic, or an Anglican, or a Jew, and in the case of managers who are employing a teacher whose business it may be to teach the English Church catechism, it is surely reasonable that they should ask whether the teacher can conscientiously do so. As regards the other objection stated by the hon. Member for Carnarvon, the difficulty he indicated cannot take place if the law is observed. The Conscience Clause makes it impossible for any child to be taught any form of belief to which the parents object, and the by-law recently issued by the Board of Education makes it possible not only that the child should be withdrawn from religious instruction if the parents declare that to be their wish, but the child may be withdrawn from school while that instruction is being given, so that proselytising is impossible. There is no reason why teacherships should not be given to persons of any religious denomination, if they are good teachers whom the managers can employ irrespective of denominational teaching. If he is employed in religious teaching, surely it is reasonable to ask what denomination he belongs to.

DR. HUTCHINSON (Sussex, Rye): Is it reasonable that the State should pay for that teaching? That is our point.

* SIR WILLIAM ANSON: I must remind the hon. Member that the local education authority has complete control over the question of the qualifications of the teachers. So far as the quality of the teaching is concerned, the local education authority is supreme, and if they think that the managers are, for denominational purposes, employing unfit persons, they can at once ask the managers to make a change. I pass to another misrepresentation, which I have before me in the form of a Resolution passed by a local Free Church Council. It is really monstrous to say that the Act of last year gave to one section of the Church absolute authority in determining the educational policy of the nation. The educational policy is determined for each area by the Education Committee, subject to the authority of the County Council. The provided schools are completely under its control, and the voluntary schools, which were formerly very often entirely under clerical control, are now, as to their secular teaching, under the control of the local authority, and as to their religious teaching, under the control of a body of managers, two of whom are appointed by the local authority. Surely that is some return, in the way of popular management, for the assistance given to the general education of the country by the maintenance of the voluntary schools, so far as their teaching is concerned, out of the rates. I will give a small instance of the hasty way in which the denominational terror is excited in the minds of those who are the victims of statistics. The hon. Member for Camberwell the other evening stated that there were in London 354 departments of schools liable to be re-transferred from the School Board to denominational management.

DR. MACNAMARA: What I said was that since 1870, 354 departments were transferred to the London School Board.

* SIR WILLIAM ANSON: I understood the hon. Gentleman to say that there were 354 departments liable to be transferred if the formalities are complied with. I shou'd like to tell him the facts which I worked out from the School Board Returns. There are not 354, but only forty-three departments in nineteen schools which are now liable to be re-transferred, of these eight are undenominational, and two others are also almost certainly so, while only nine are Church of England schools, with nineteen departments.

DR. MACNAMARA: The hon. Gentleman has not challenged my statement, that since 1870 there have been 354 departments transferred to the London School Board.

* SIR WILLIAM ANSON: I did not challenge that statement; but the hon. Gentleman said that there were 354 departments liable to be re-transferred if the Board of Education were willing. I only mention this to show how very easily the denominational terror is excited, and that if you go into the matter more carefully you find that their fancies are almost wholly unfounded. I do not wish for a moment to minimise the religious difficulty; I am painfully aware of its existence, as I have said over and over

and over again. But, I think that hon. Members who raise this vehement objection to assistance of voluntary schools out of the rates should remember how long the Roman Catholics and Anglicans have had to pay rates for religious teaching which was not acceptable to them, and to maintain their own schools at their own expense. If a Nonconformist happened to require to go to an Anglican school, at any rate he got his teaching for nothing, whereas the denominational people who are not satisfied with the religious teaching in the Board schools had to pay for their own schools, and also to pay rates for teaching which was not to their minds. I do not think we have yet reached the final settlement of the religious difficulty; but I should wish to see it treated in a somewhat different spirit. I think that if there was rather more religion in the matter there would be less difficulty.

I pass from that to another point raised by the hon. Member for Camberwell—viz., that the London County Council cannot, and will not undertake this work. Well, I quite admit that if the County Council work as the School Board did—as described to us by the hon. Member for Camberwell—spend the morning in interviewing teachers, and the afternoon in dealing with small repairs, trusting nobody, delegating nothing to anybody, insisting on doing everything itself—it would break down under the effort. But I do not see why it should act in that way. There will no longer be the work necessitated by the competition of the School Board with other educational institutions in London. The County Council will have the field entirely to itself, and co-ordination, if I may use that much abused word, will take the place of competition. Therefore, the County Council will be able to lay down the broad lines of educational policy, and work through sub-committees under one of the clauses of the Act of last year, either for particular purposes, or for particular areas. Under these sub-committees, again, will be the managers of the elementary schools. I cannot believe that, with all the intellectual and educational resources of London, the County Council will find it impossible to do the work, I admit the heavy work, which this Bill proposes to place upon it. I do not believe the County Council will refuse to undertake that work. I have heard in this House and elsewhere many hard things said of the County Council. I have heard it described as injudicious, extravagant, and ultra-political, but I have never heard it said that it was lacking in public spirit, where there was any opportunity of undertaking work which it thought it could discharge for the benefit of the citizens. Under these circumstances can we believe that the London County Council will neglect this great educational work? In the "Inferno" of Dante there is a place for those lost souls who, either from meanness of nature, or from self distrust, shirk responsibilities, or cast aside great opportunities. I cannot believe that the London County Council will be numbered among these. I am sure that it will take up this great work for the benefit of the youth and children of London, and carry it through heartily, courageously, and effectually.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON (Tower Hamlets, Poplar): Perhaps the hon. Baronet will allow me to say, on behalf of those who sit on this side of the House, that we thank him for the courtesy he has consistently shown to all Members throughout these debates. We sympathise very much with him in the difficulty in which he has been placed in carrying the Bill through the House. I am sure it would be a curious revelation if we had the secret history of the different phases and changes which have occurred in the passage of the Bill. The Government got themselves into difficulties because they had consulted the wrong parties. Instead of consulting those who are interested in and know the educational wants of the Metropolis, they put themselves in the hands of certain Unionist Members who proved to be a very broken reed indeed. There are one or two matters in which this Bill is an improvement on the Act of last year. One is in regard to the unlimited rate which may be made for secondary education. Another is the statutory position in which women will be placed in regard to school management. The hon. Baronet said that we had shown hostility to the Borough Councils throughout these debates. I can assure him that we have no such hostility whatever. We had hostility to the proposal in the Bill that education should be the sport forever of separate bodies. In our opinion the bringing in of the Borough Councils would have created friction and made the administration of the education of London wholly unworkable. I have never been able to understand why the Government chose to municipalise education in London. In small country School Boards, and even in the case of large School Boards, you might carry out that operation; but when you come to the case of London you are on an entirely different footing. Even the Government themselves said that London should be treated differently. I have never been able to appreciate the reasons given for municipalising education in London; and I am afraid that while you will destroy the School Board you will also practically wreck the London County Council. The hon. Baronet said that, in his opinion, the County Council would be fully able to do the work. That was not what the hon. Baronet or the Prime Minister said in a former discussion; because he then laid it down absolutely and distinctly that unless there were a statutory delegation, in order that the County Council should be relieved of the bulk of the work, it would be impossible for the County Council to carry it on. Now the delegation disappears; and yet the hon. Baronet says that the County Council will be able to do the work. We believe that this Bill will really injure the work of the County Council; and that it will not be able to carry out its educational work in a sufficiently satisfactory and efficient way; and that, instead of making for education in London, it will do a great deal to retard it. The Bill was hurried at the earlier stage, before we were able to obtain the opinion of London on it. That opinion has now been given unanimously by every public body; and I believe it will be endorsed by the electors who are absolutely averse to the policy of the Government. We have had many discussions on this Bill; but because of the way the Bill is drawn we have never been able until this afternoon to touch on the question of control and rate aid which lie at the bottom of the whole matter. The hon. Baronet entered at some length into the religious question and the question of control. He touched especially on the question of tests for teachers; and he went so far as to say that he understood that there were very few schools in which tests would be applied, because there were very few schools in which the trust deeds would operate in that direction.

*SIR WILLIAM ANSON: I said I believed that the number of trust deeds which required tests for teachers was not very large.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON: My information is that they are a very large number, I have heard they number 13,000—at all events, they amount to thousands. But it is not only in schools which are governed by trust deeds that tests will be applied. We know very well that there will be a test imposed on the head teacher in every Church of England school in the country. Unless a teacher is a member of the Church of England he will not have any opportunity, whatever his secular qualifications may be, of becoming a head teacher in a Church of England school. That means exclusion for the bulk of Nonconformists from the denominational schools, so long as they are not under popular control. Considering that the State in its rate-paying capacity is now going to pay the salaries of these teachers they are practically Civil servants; and there ought to be sufficient margin of public control over denominational schools which, without interfering with the atmosphere of these schools, should take care that, as regards secular instruction, there should be full and open competition as regards the appointment of teachers. The hon. Baronet said the other day that the Act of last year was generally accepted. I am afraid that he will find that that is a very sanguine view; and that when the London County Council elections come on, instead of their turning, as they ought to turn, on municipal work, they will turn on educational and religious questions, and especially on the question as to whether the new County Council through its educational authority should give rates to the denominational schools where they have not full control over secular instruction, with a view to its proper efficiency and to prevent tests for teachers. I believe the vast majority of the electors, who are in these matters Progressive, will give an instruction that the education authority shall not pay rates to the denominational schools unless they have full control over the secular education in such schools. I shall entirely sympathise with that view; and, if it is accepted, what is the hon. Baronet going to do in such circumstances? He will find himself face to face with a very serious situation; and I can only say that the Government have brought this question upon themselves. They should have waited to have seen how the Act for last year would work in the country. There would have been no difficulty in carrying some temporary measure which would not prejudice the voluntary schools or the ratepayers, instead of suddenly altering the whole educational system of London. It is very hard that we in London should have a Bill of this sort, which is totally different to the Bill originally introduced and to all the Government had said, at this very early stage of our new educational policy, forced on the electors of London. In my opinion it will do a great deal more to damage education than to benefit it.

MR. DILLON (Mayo, E.): At this, the last stage of this controversy, I wish to say a few words from the Catholic point of view. To those of us who remember the debates of 1896 and the debates of last year, and the debates at the early stages of this Bill, the appearance of the House this evening is very remarkable. I wish it were otherwise, but I am greatly afraid that that listlessness is not a true reflection of the conditions in the country, and that the controversies which were aroused by the Bill of last year, and by the Bill we are now discussing, are, I think, by no means brought to an end. The hon. Member for Carnarvon Boroughs said that as far as he could hear the only body in this country who were thoroughly satisfied with this Bill were the Catholic body. I do not think he was right in imagining that the Catholic body are thoroughly satisfied in regard to this Bill. I notice that the enthusiasm with which the Church of England hailed the introduction of the Bill of 1896 and the Bill of last year has considerably abated. I myself, throughout these discussions, acting on behalf of the Irish Party, have pursued a course very often slightly different from that advocated by the leaders of the Catholic Church in this country. In our private discussions on the Bill of 1896, and again on the Bill of last year, I used my utmost influence with the leaders of my Church in this country to bring their influence to bear on the Government to bring about a concordat or settlement which might last for another thirty or forty years. I failed to make my views prevail; and although I support this Bill and mean to vote for its Third Reading, it is not in the least because I approve of the policy of the Government, or the details of the measure; but because it embodies a principle in which I believe, and in which all my colleagues believe, and that is, support of denominational instruction in primary schools. I took leave to urge on the heads of the Catholic Church in this country, and even spoke in this House in a way in which I was very sharply taken to task by some of the Catholic newspapers, that in my opinion no more unwise course could be adopted by the Government than to take advantage of their present, or perhaps I should say their late, majority to force terms upon the Opposition without giving them an opportunity of arriving at some concordat.

Let us recollect for a moment what has been the history of this education question during the last thirty years. In 1870 a great struggle arose between the advocates of strictly secular education and the advocates of denominational education in this country, quite as bitter and quite as fierce on both sides as anything that has been going on for the last three or four years. But in the course of that the great settlement of 1870, after fierce debates, was agreed to; and, although in my judgment it was a very imperfect and a very bad arrangement, still because it was the outcome of a certain amount of agreement between the two sides it has withstood the storms of thirty years and has carried on the question for that period without any change. I have always had a great objection to that settlement. I think it was a bad settlement. I have always been an opponent of the Cowper-Temple clause, which I think is at the bottom of a great many of our present difficulties. But still it stood from the very fact that it had its origin in some form of agreement springing from conciliation on both sides. I took occasion at a critical time in the history of the Bill to urge strongly upon the Government that they had now a great opportunity because of their great majority and their power to obtain some settlement and arrangement which might carry the question on for another thirty or forty years. My advice was thrown aside, and the present arrangement was come to. Does anyone believe that this is a settlement? Does any man believe that the power of this Government is going to last very much longer? I then ask myself what is going to follow? I am concerned chiefly, I admit, with the fate of the Catholic schools. And I say that as regards all the complaints made by the hon. Member for Carnarvon Boroughs and the hon. Member for North Camberwell our withers are unwrung. We do not want to proselytise; we offer no teacher any inducement to change his religion. All we desire is to obtain leave to pursue that system of religious instruction to which our race and nation are attached in whatever part of the globe they may be found. Our fortune has been indissolubly tied in education matters, by the leaders of our Church in this country, with the fate and fortunes of the Anglican Church.

It does appear to me to be an undeniable and an indefensible position that there should exist in this country thousands of schools in which you have mixed Protestant bodies of children being taught, and that in schools of that character the Nonconformist teachers are penalised and denied the right of ever becoming head masters. What I am afraid of is this. What will be the position of the voluntary schools when they are brought under the influence of a powerful Radical majority? It has been held that all compromise is impossible in this matter. I do not believe it. There are Members upon both sides of the House who would have compromised but for the extremists who made compromise impossible. We have not got rid of the religious difficulty in any way. It will all have to be brought out again after the next General Election, and, if so, the Government has set an example which others might follow, and if the pendulum should swing heavily, and the Radical Party comes back in great strength, they might say: "Why should we consider you? What mercy have you shown to us? We believe in absolute popular control; you have admitted the principle of popular control. You say the proprietors in voluntary schools shall have two-thirds of the control, and now only one step is needed to sweep the voluntary schools completely under popular control." I always felt from the beginning that we who are the defenders of the denominational schools, when we admitted the element of popular control in these schools, had done that which in the future may bring forth trouble in this matter. I hope and trust that the Irish Party will have power enough to defend in the future the fate of the Catholic schools. I regret that on this occasion I have been compelled to vote in favour of a measure that in my judgment contains indefensible provisions, and which subjects certain classes of the population in this country to disabilities which we in Ireland have overthrown. I am convinced that, because of these defects, this Bill will not stand long without substantial and dangerous changes being made in it. Still we have been compelled to vote in favour of this measure, because it is presented by the Government as the only issue placed before us, and because it incorporates the great principle which we in Ireland—I was going to say irreconcilably—adhere to, and that is, that there shall be religious teaching in the primary schools.

*MR. BARRAN (Leeds, N.): There is a general consensus of opinion that the interest of the Education Bill has passed from this House to the country. We have had the first act, and this is the second act in the education drama. Interest is now concentrated in the prologue of the third act, which will have to tell what may take place between the close of the second and the beginning of the third. It may be some little time yet before that can be written. In the meanwhile we offer none the less strenuous opposition to the Third Reading of this present Bill. It applies to the remaining area of the country the worst principles of the former Bill, in spite of the condemnation through the country and in

London shown by the meetings and elections. Those of us who are interested in stating the case for the Nonconformists are not influenced by the point harped upon by the Prime Minister and many others on that side of the House that Nonconformists are better off under these Bills than they were previously. We do not for a moment admit the point, but we demand at the present time equality of treatment and opportunity for every citizen. The Nonconformists have acted for thirty years under a compromise made by that Party which is most in sympathy with their views. They have kept their part of the compromise. The position now will be entirely different. In these Bills there has been no compromise, they now lie under the injustice of inequality inflicted upon them by a powerful and intolerant Party. Their action is, and will be, necessarily very different. As the hon. Member for Carnarvon has pointed out, while claiming this equality for themselves, they are willing to give just and fair treatment to those who differ from them for teaching their own particular religion. They are willing to give to the Church of England an opportunity of teaching their own dogmas and a consideration which shall be based either on what the Church has done for education in the past or a consideration based on the value of their buildings. The latter pecuniary consideration has perhaps weighed too heavily with Churchmen, and it is a question as to whether, after all, they have not made a sordid bargain when they have received their money consideration and lost a great influence. Those on this side of the House regret equally with those on the other the loss of the influence of the clergy where it is exercised religiously. But I oppose the Third Reading of this Bill equally on educational grounds. London will lose the direct responsibility which went from the Education Committee to the smallest sub-committees, the members of which were able to state their views and the requirements of the schools personally before that body which had the granting of the money and the levying of the rate, and these men were also directly responsible to the ratepayers. In place of this you substitute a body half of whom can never make a personal report to the council which has the final word, and half of whom are not responsible to the ratepayers. You will lose cohesion, and you will lose responsibility. We shall by this Bill lose the prospect of that educational efficiency in London which is so vital to us in the face of foreign competition. It is not only the organising of the Committee, or the forming of a syllabus for the schools, which makes for success; it is the direct interest of the members of the Education Committee in watching over the success of the education that will answer our purpose in the competition with the markets of the world. It is principally because I believe that by this Bill we are going backward and not forward in that competition that I strongly oppose the Third Reading. I would rather leave London education in its present condition than have it in the position in which it will be after this Bill becomes law.

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 228; Noes, 118. (Division List No. 181.)

AYES.

Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Allhusen, Aug. Henry Eden
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arrol, Sir William
Aubrey-Fletcher, Rt. Hn. Sir H.
Bagot, Capt. Josceline FitzRoy
Bailey, James (*Walworth*)
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Baird, John George Alexander
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (*Manch'r*
Balfour, Capt. C. B. (*Hornsey*)
Balfour, Rt Hn Gerald W. (*Leeds*
Balfour, Kenneth R. (*Christch*
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bignold, Arthur
Bigwood, James
Bill, Charles
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Boland, John
Bond, Edward
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith
Bousfield, William Robert
Bowles, T. Gibson (*Lynn Regis*)
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Bull, William James
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Butcher, John George
Campbell, Rt. Hn. J. A (*Glasgow*
Campbell, John (*Armagh, S.*)
Carlile, William Walter
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Cavendish, V. C. W. (*Derbyshire*
Cayzer, Sir Charles William
Cecil, Evelyn (*Aston Manor*)
Chamberlain, Rt Hon J (*Birm*
Chamberlain, Rt. Hn. J A (*Worc*
Chamberlayne, T. (*Southmptn*
Chapman, Edward
Charrington, Spencer
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Clare, Octavius Leigh
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Coddington, Sir William
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Collings, Right Hon. Jesse
Cox, Irwin Edwd. Bainbridge
Crean, Eugene
Cripps, Charles Alfred
Crossley, Rt. Hon. Sir Savile
Cust, Henry John C
Davenport, William Bromley

Denny, Colonel
Devlin, Chas. Ramsay(*Galway*
Dewar, Sir T. R. (*Tr. Hamlets*
Dickson, Charles Scott
Dillon, John
Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
Doogan, P. C.
Dorington, Rt. Hon. Sir J. E.
Doughty, George
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers
Duffy, William J.
Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
Dyke, Rt. Hon. Sir Wm. Hart
Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas
Faber, E. B. (*Hants, W.*)
Faber, George Denison (*York*)
Fardell, Sir T. George
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Ed.
Fergusson, Rt Hn. Sir J. (*Man'r*
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Firbank, Sir Joseph Thomas
Fisher, William Hayes
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Flower, Ernest
Forster, Henry William
Galloway, William Johnson
Gardner, Ernest
Gibbs, Hn. Vicary (*St. Albans*
Godson, Sir Augustus Fredk.
Gordon, Hn. J. E. (*Elgin & Nrn*
Gore, HnG. R. C. Ormsby-(*Salop*
Gore, Hon. S. F. Ormsby-(*Linc.*)
Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
Goschen, Hon. George Joachim
Greene, Henry D. (*Shrewsbury*)
Greene, W. Raymond (*Cambs*
Grenfell, William Henry
Gretton, John
Groves, James Grimble
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Gunter, Sir Robert
Guthrie, Walter Murray
Hamilton, Rt Hn Ld. G. (*Midx*
Hardy, Laurence (*Kent, Ashf'd*
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Haslam, Sir Alfred S.
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Hayden, John Patrick
Heath, Arthur H. (*Hanley*)
Helder, Augustus
Henderson, Sir Alexander
Hickman, Sir Alfred
Hobhouse, Rt. Hn H. (*Som's't, E*
Hoult, Joseph
Houston, Robert Paterson
Howard, Jn. (*Kent, Faver'h'm*
Hozier, Hon. Jas. Henry Cecil
Johnstone, Heywood
Kenyon, Hon. G. T. (*Denbigh*
King, Sir Henry Seymour
Knowles, Lees
Lambton, Hon. Fredk. Wm.
Law, Andrew Bonar (*Glasgow*
Lawrence, Wm. F. (*Liverpool*
Lawson, John Grant (*Yorks, NR*
Lees, Sir Elliott (*Birkenhead*)
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leveson-Gower, Frederick N. S
Llewellyn, Evan Henry
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Long, Rt Hn. Walter (*Bristol, S*)
Lowther, Rt. Hon. Jas. (*Kent*)
Lundon, W.
Macdona, John Cumming
MacIver, David (*Liverpool*)
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
MacVeagh, Jeremiah
M'Iver, Sir Lewis (*Edinburgh W*
M'Killop, James (*Stirlingshire*
Martin, Richard Biddulph
Maxwell, Rt Hn Sir H. E (*Wigt'n*
Melville, Beresford Valentine
Milvain, Thomas
Molesworth, Sir Lewis
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
Morrell, George Herbert
Morton, Arthur H. Aylmer
Mowbray, Sir Robt. Gray C.
Murray, Rt Hn A. Graham (*Bute*
Murray, Charles J. (*Coventry*)
Murray, Col. Wyndham (*Bath*
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Nicholson, William Graham
Nolan, Col. John P. (*Galway, N.*
Nolan, Joseph (*Louth, S.*)
O'Brien, James F. X. (*Cork*)
O'Brien, Patrick (*Kilkenny*)
O'Brien, P. J. (*Tipperary, N.*)
O'Connor, Jas. (*Wicklow, W.*)
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, Conor (*Mayo, N.*)
O'Kelly, J. (*Roscommon, N.*)
O'Malley, William
Orr-Ewing, Charles Lindsay
O'Shee, James John
Palmer, Walter (*Salisbury*)
Peel, Hn. Wm. R. Wellesley
Pemberton, John S. G.
Percy, Earl
Pilkington, Colonel Richard
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Power, Patrick Joseph
Purvis, Robert
Randles, John S.
Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
Reddy, M.
Redmond, Jn. E. (*Waterford*)
Redmond, William (*Clare*)
Reid, James (*Greenock*)
Remnant, Jas. Farquharson
Renshaw, Sir Charles Bine
Renwick, George
Ridley, S. F. (*Bethnal Green*)
Ritchie, Rt. Hn. C. Thomson
Roberts, Samuel (*Sheffield*)
Rolleston, Sir John F. L.
Ropner, Colonel Sir Robert
Round, Rt. Hon. James
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Rutherford, John (*Lancashire*)
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford-
Sadler, Col. Samuel Alexander
Samuel, Harry S. (*Limehouse*)
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Seely, Maj J. E. B. (*Isle of Wight*
Seton-Karr, Sir Henry
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Shaw-Stewart, M. H. (*Renfrew*)
Simeon, Sir Barrington
Sinclair, Louis (*Romford*)
Smith, H C (*North'mb. Tyneside*
Smith, James Parker (*Lanarks.*)
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (*Strand*)
Spear, John Ward
Stanley, Hon. A. (*Ormskirk*)
Stanley, Edw. Jas. (*Somerset*)
Stanley, Lord (*Lancs.*)
Stirling-Maxwell, Sir Jn. M.
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Stroyan, John
Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
Sturt, Hon. Humphrey Napier
Talbot, Lord E. (*Chichester*)
Talbot, Rt Hn J. G (*Oxford Univ.*
Thorburn, Sir Walter
Tollemache, Henry James
Tomlinson, Sir Wm. Edw. M.
Tufnell, Lieut.-Col. Edward
Valentia, Viscount
Walrond, Rt. Hn. Sir William H.
Warde, Colonel C. E.
Webb, Colonel William George
Whiteley, H (*Ashton und. Lyne*
Willoughby de Eresby, Lord
Wilson, John (*Glasgow*)
Wilson-Todd, W. H. (*Yorks.*)
Wodehouse, Rt. Hn E. R. (*Ba*
Worsley-Taylor, Henry Wilson
Wrightson, Sir Thomas
Wylie, Alexander
Yerburgh, Robt. Armstrong

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Mr. Ansturther.

NOES.

Allen, Chas. P. (*Glos., Stroud*)
Asher, Alexander
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Atherley-Jones, L.
Barlow, John Emmott
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Bayley, Thomas (*Derbyshire*)
Black, Alexander William
Brigg, John
Broadhurst, Henry
Brown, George M. (*Edinburgh*
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Burt, Thomas
Buxton, Sydney Charles
Caldwell, James
Cameron, Robert
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Causton, Richard Knight
Cawley, Frederick
Channing, Francis Allston
Craig, Robert Hunter (*Lanark*
Cremer, William Randal
Crooks, William
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, Alfred (*Carmarthen*)
Davies, M. Vaughan (*Cardigan*
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Duncan, J. Hastings
Dunn, Sir William
Elibank, Master of
Emmott, Alfred
Farquharson, Dr. Robert
Fenwick, Charles

Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmund
Foster, Sir Walter (*Derby Co.*
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Grey, Rt. Hn. Sir E. (***Berwick***
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Hardie, J. Keir (*Merthyr Tyd*
Harmsworth, R. Leicester
Harwood, George
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Charles Seale-
Hayter, Rt. Hn. Sir Arthur D.
Holland, Sir William Henry
Hope, John Deans (*Fife, West*)
Humphreys-Owen, Arthur C.
Hutchinson, Dr. Charles Fredk.
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jones, William (*Carnarvonsh.*)
Kearley, Hudson E.
Labouchere, Henry
Langley, Batty
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leese, Sir Jos. F. (*Accrington,*
Leigh, Sir Joseph
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, David
Lough, Thomas
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
M'Kenna, Reginald
Mansfield, Horace Rendall
Mappin, Sir Fredk. Thorpe
Markham, Arthur Basil
Mellor, Rt. Hn. John William
Middlemore, Jn. Throgmorton
Mitchell, Edw (*Fermanagh, N.*)
Morgan, J. Lloyd (*Carmarthen*
Newnes, Sir George
Nussey, Thomas Willans
Palmer, Sir Charles M (*Durham*
Partington, Oswald
Pirie, Duncan V.
Price, Robert John
Priestley, Arthur
Reid, Sir R. Threshie (*Dumfries*
Rickett, J. Compton
Rigg, Richard
Roberts, John H. (*Denbighs.*)
Robertson, Edmund (*Dundee*)
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rose, Charles Day
Runciman, Walter
Samuel, Herbert L. (*Cleveland*
Schwann, Charles E.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Charles E. (*Stafford*)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair, John (*Forfarshire*)
Sloan, Thomas Henry
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Soares, Ernest J.
Spencer, Rt. Hn C. R (*Northants*
Stevenson, Francis S.
Strachey, Sir Edward
Taylor, Theodore C. (*Radcliffe*)
Tennant, Harold John
Thomas, Sir A. (*Glamorgan, E.*
Thomas, David Alfred (*Merthyr*
Thomas, F. Freeman- (*Hastings*)
Thomson, F. W. (*York, W.R.*)
Tomkinson, James
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Wallace, Robert
Warner, Thos. Courtenay T.
Wason, Eugene (*Clackmannan*
Wason, John Cathcart (*Orkney*
Weir, James Galloway
Whiteley, George (*York, W. R.*
Whitley, J. H. (*Halifax*)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Williams, O. (***Merioneth***)
Wilson, Chas. H. (***Hull, W.***)
Wilson, H. J. (***York, W. R.***)
Wilson, John (*Durham, Mid*)
Woodhouse, Sir J T (*Huddersf'd*
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE NOES —
Mr. Herbert Gladstone and
Mr. William M'Arthur.

Main Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read the third time and passed.

LICENSING ACTS (SCOTLAND) CONSOLIDATION AND AMENDMENT BILL.

As amended (by the Standing Committee), further considered.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 37, line 35, to leave out from the word 'custody' to the word 'may' in line 36."—(*The Lord Advocate.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 38, line 3, after the word 'manner' to insert the words 'or while drunk uses obscene or indecent language to the annoyance of any person.'"—(*The Lord Advocate.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 38, line 14, at end, to insert the words 'If any person charged with an offence under this sub-section shall have been taken into custody and liberated on bail or pledge and shall fail to appear at the calling of the case at the first Court thereafter, the Court may (save as otherwise provided by or under any general or local Police Act applying to a burgh as aforesaid) declare such bail or pledge to be forfeited, and may in addition, if the case in the opinion of the Court shall so require, summon him to appear before the Court or grant warrant for his apprehension.'"—(*The Lord Advocate.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted in the Bill."

MR. CALDWELL (Lanarkshire, Mid) said he was afraid that in some cases a little favouritism might be shown.

*THE LORD ADVOCATE (Mr. A. GRAHAM MURRAY, Buteshire) assured the hon. Member that this proposal had been most carefully considered.

Question put, and agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 38, lines 26 and 27, to leave out the words 'public conveyance or other,' and insert the words 'and any.'"—(*The Lord Advocate.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 38, line 28, after the word 'otherwise' to insert the words 'and any public conveyance.'"—(*The Lord Advocate.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 38, line 30, at end, to insert the words, (5) 'For the purposes of this section the expression "public place" shall include the harbour of Glasgow, the expression "public conveyance" shall include the ferry boats in the River Clyde as defined by the Clyde

Navigation Acts, and the expression "magistrate" shall include the bailie, depute bailie, and Judge exercising jurisdiction in the Court of the bailie of the River and Firth of Clyde.'"—(*The Lord Advocate.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 39, line 3, after the word 'person' to insert the word 'is.'"—(*The Lord Advocate.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 39, line 4, after the figures '1898' to insert the word 'and.'"—(*The Lord Advocate.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 39, line 31, to leave out the words 'before the sheriff.'"—(*Mr. Caldwell.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 40, line 27, at end, to add the words, "The offence under this section of being found in any shebeen drunk shall be deemed to be an offence mentioned in the First Schedule to The Inebriates Act, 1898.'"—(*The Lord Advocate.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 40, line 40, at end of clause to insert the words 'unless he proves to the satisfaction of the Court that such liquor was so consumed without his knowledge or against his consent.'"—(*The Lord Advocate.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 42, lines 18 and 19, to leave out the words 'if duly authorised by the police authority.'"—(*Mr. Caldwell.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 43, line 11, at end, to add the words, (7) 'A club may make application for a certificate of registration at any time after the thirtieth day of November nineteen hundred and three and before the commencement of this Act, and no club which has made such application shall be deemed to be an unregistered club pending the final decision of the sheriff on such application, and any application so made shall for the purposes of this section be deemed to have been made on the first day of January nineteen hundred and four.'"—(*The Lord Advocate.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 43, line 16, to leave out the words 'annually by the general body of members,' and insert the words 'for not less than a year by the general body of members and subject in whole or in a specified proportion to annual re-election.'"—(*The Lord Advocate.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 43, line 35, to leave out from the word 'be' to the word 'which' in line 38, and insert the words 'supplied with excisable liquor in the club premises unless on the invitation and in the company of a member and that the member shall, upon the admission of such visitor to the club premises or immediately upon his being supplied with such liquor, enter his own name and the name and address of the visitor in a book.'"—(*The Lord Advocate.*)

Question proposed "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Bill."

MR. CALDWELL said the latter part of this proposal read—

"And that the member shall, upon the admission of such visitor to the club premises, or immediately upon his being supplied with such liquor, enter his own name and the name and address of the visitor in a book."

He thought that was going a little too far, because it meant entering the name in the visitors' book, although the visitor might be going in only temporarily. Then, again, the liquor was to be supplied to the member on his own responsibility. The requirement was that if the name had not been entered in the book they were to enter it in some other book immediately the liquor was supplied. He thought that was an unnecessary restriction, and no practical benefit would be derived from it. They were already taking precautions that the liquor was only to be supplied on the member's own responsibility, and that ought to be sufficient without putting the other words in. Perhaps the Lord Advocate had been pressed into this proposal without considering its full effect. He suggested that the words from "a member" in the third line to the end of the clause should be left out.

Mr. HUNTER CRAIG (Lanarkshire, Govan) thought it would be far more sensible to alter the phrase and insert, "or immediately before being supplied."

Mr. A. GRAHAM MURRAY said he could not accept the suggestions which had been made.

Question put, and negatived.

Question, "That those words be there inserted," put, and agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 46, line 10, after the word 'consumption' to insert the words 'or to a person holding an excise licence for the sale of such liquor.'"—(*The Lord Advocate.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 48, line 19, to leave out from beginning of line to the word 'served,' in line 31, and insert the words 'a complaint for breach of certificate shall be.'"—(*The Lord Advocate.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 48, line 32, to leave out the words 'to attend the hearing of such complaint.'"—(*The Lord Advocate.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 48, line 33, to leave out the words 'said party,' and insert the words 'party complained against.'"—(*The Lord Advocate.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 49, line 6, to leave out from the word 'against,' to end of clause."—(*The Lord Advocate.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 49, leave out Clause 92."—(*The Lord Advocate.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 50, line 5, after the word 'of,' insert the words 'other prosecutor ordinarily acting in such respective Courts or in the case of a justice of the peace or burgh police court at the instance.'"—(*The Lord Advocate.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 50, line 7, to leave out the word 'magistrates,' and insert the words 'town council.'"—(*The Lord Advocate.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 50, line 10, to leave out the words 'magistrates as the case may be shall,' and insert the words 'town council, as the case may be, may.'"—(*The Lord Advocate.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 50, line 16, to leave out from the word 'taxed,' to the word 'as,' in line 17, and insert the words 'on behalf of the County Council or Town Council.'"—(*The Lord Advocate.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 50, line 19, to leave out the words 'also the execution of this Act,' and insert the words 'such business.'"—(*The Lord Advocate.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 50, line 22, to leave out the word 'burgh' and insert the words 'Royal or Parliamentary burghs having a separate licensing Court.'"—(*The Lord Advocate.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

'In page 51, line 5, to leave out the word 'may' and insert the word 'shall.'"—(*The Lord Advocate.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 51, line 7, to leave out from the word 'determined,' to the word 'and,' in line 8, and insert the words 'under the provisions of the Summary Jurisdiction Acts.'"—(*The Lord Advocate.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 51, line 16, at end, to insert the words 'Provided that, in any complaint brought under this Act, the description of any offence against this Act in the words of the Act, or of any certificate granted thereunder shall be sufficient in law.' "—(*The Lord Advocate.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 51, leave out Clause 95."—(*The Lord Advocate.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 51, line 37, to leave out the words 'toll house.' "—(*The Lord Advocate.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 52, line 7, to leave out the words 'toll houses.' "—(*The Lord Advocate.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 52, line 19, to leave out the words 'sixty days,' and insert the words 'two months.' "—(*The Lord Advocate.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 52, line 33, to leave out the words 'sixty days,' and insert the words 'two months.' "—(*The Lord Advocate.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 53, line 23, to leave out the words 'sixty days,' and insert the words 'two months.' "—(*The Lord Advocate.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 54, line 6, at beginning, to insert the words, 'A certified extract of.' "—(*The Lord Advocate.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 55, line 17, to leave out from the word 'for,' to the word 'in,' in line 21, and insert the words, 'any offence punishable by fine or by imprisonment to bring the case by appeal before the High Court of Justiciary.' "—(*The Lord Advocate.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 55, line 38, to leave out from the word 'clerk,' to the word 'a' in line 39, and insert the words, 'of the High Court of Justiciary.' "—(*The Lord Advocate.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 56, line 9, at end of line to insert the words, 'or with the right of appeal under The Summary Prosecutions Appeals (Scotland) Act, 1875, or the Burgh Police (Scotland) Act, 1892.' "—(*The Lord Advocate.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 56, line 27, at end, to add the words, 'And nothing in this Act contained shall be read as limiting any power to mitigate penalties contained in the Summary Jurisdiction Acts or any other Act, or as excluding the operation of the Fine or Imprisonment (Scotland and Ireland) Act, 1899.' "—(*The Lord Advocate.*)

Amendment agreed to.

MR. GRETTON (Derbyshire, S.) moved an Amendment with the object of keeping open for discussion the question whether the licensing authority should have the option of allowing certain licence-holders to keep their premises open till 11 p.m. or whether they should come within the provisions of the schedule. He moved.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 64, line 12, at the end, to insert the words—'Part I. Forms of certificate applicable to all counties and districts and to all burghs not specified in Part II.' "—(*Mr. Gretton.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted in the Bill."

*MR. A. GRAHAM MURRAY said this Amendment raised a question of very great importance, and he thought it would be necessary to explain the position of the Government upon it. It might conduce to clearness if he reminded the House what the law was before this Bill was introduced. First of all he would remind hon. Members that in Scotland there were three forms of certificate—one applicable to hotels, another applicable to public-houses, and the third applicable to grocers. In all these forms of certificate the hour of opening was eight o'clock in the morning. In the law as settled by the Home Drummond Act and earlier Acts the hour of closing in all of them was eleven o'clock, subject to a special power of the licensing authority which then existed in certain districts to close at an earlier hour, but not earlier than nine. In 1887 an Act was passed which altered the form of certificate so far as the evening was concerned, and made the hour optional, according to the view of the licensing authority, between ten and eleven. That was to say, they could not close sooner than ten, and they could not keep open later than eleven. But that Act, which altered the form of certificate in this way, did not apply to certain large burghs. It applied to all except the exempted burghs which had a population of over 50,000. That was how the law stood, and in this Bill as introduced by the Government it was not proposed to make any change either in the hours of opening or closing. But the Government were confronted with a series of Amendments in different Members' names which related to one end of the day and the other. That was to say, there was an Amendment which proposed that in the morning, in the option of the licensing authority, the opening hour should be as late as ten o'clock, and with regard to the evening there were Amendments which proposed that there should be no distinction in future between the seven large towns and the rest of Scotland. There was indeed one Amendment which would have given absolute power to the magistrates without indicating any hours at all. The matter was mooted in Committee by an Amendment of the hon. Member for Kincardineshire, which in the form of a by-law proposed to give absolute discretion at both ends to the Licensing Court. He took exception upon a point of order to that Amendment and held that it could not be done in the form of a by-law, and that it must be done on the certificate. A discussion arose, and he took occasion at that time to say that he had made up his mind to accept an Amendment which put the large towns in the same position as the smaller towns. The hon. and learned Member for the Dumfries Burghs said that in view of that position which he had indicated, it was hardly necessary to press the Amendment then before the Committee, and the matter was allowed to drop. Of course in making the announcement he naturally disclosed what he considered to be the whole position and policy of the Government, but notwithstanding that concession, he was confronted at a later stage of the Bill by an Amendment, by way of a new clause amending the schedule, which, of course, was quite in order. By that Amendment the morning hours were also altered, and it was made optional not to open till ten. He resisted that Amendment, but was beaten in the division which ensued. He thought he might, as a matter of fact, claim that that absolved him from his promise to make a concession on the matter later on, but he did not do so. Now he was again confronted with certain Amendments which raised the whole question, and he need scarcely say that it had been a matter of grave consideration what he should do. He had come to the conclusion that the only proper course for him to take was to stick to the policy of the Government which he indicated in Committee. He proposed to resist the present Amendment, making a distinction between the large towns and the small towns and to restore the hour in the morning. He thought it must be obvious that the conditions of life were quite different in the large towns as compared with the small towns. He was confronted with the fact that certainly one of the large towns—Edinburgh—had not shown any anxiety, through its municipality, to have a change; while, on the other hand, the municipalities of the other large towns had shown a desire to have no distinction made. But inasmuch as, after all, the power was only optional, and if the magistrates chose they could still keep to 11 o'clock as the hour of closing, as there was a special power of closing in special districts, and as there were no good grounds for making a distinction between Edinburgh and the other large towns, he had come to the conclusion that it was his duty, on behalf of the Government, to resist the present Amendment.

SIR ROBERT REID (Dumfries Burghs) said he thought the Lord Advocate was perfectly right in resisting this Amendment, the effect of that resistance being to preserve uniformity of treatment between the large and the small burghs.

*SIR LEWIS McIVER (Edinburgh, W.) said that after what had fallen from the Lord Advocate it was quite obvious that it would be a waste of the time of the House to press the matter much further. He only wished to say that this action of the Government, as represented by the Lord Advocate, was a very remarkable departure from what had been the policy of the Government a very short time ago. It adopted the principle which had been rejected by Parliament definitely on one occasion; and it was not included in the recommendations of the Majority Report of the Royal Commission. It was not fair to those who represented the great cities of Scotland that they were about to be treated as no other great cities in the United Kingdom had hitherto been treated, and that the Government should have departed from the policy which they announced last year. Although he had put down a consequential Amendment to exempt the city, a portion of which he represented, he strongly urged his hon. friend not to press the matter further.

*SIR ANDREW AGNEW (Edinburgh, S.) said that there was a very great distinction in the habits of the people in the large towns and the small towns. In the small towns and country districts circumstances varied a great deal. It was, therefore, quite fair that there should be a discretion on the part of the magistrates. In some places there would be no object in keeping open public-houses after ten o'clock, because little or no business would be done, and what business was done was such as they all wished to prevent. But, in the case of big towns, it was perfectly different. The city, part of which he had the honour to represent, did not wish to see any change made in the law as it stood at present. They knew that theatres in large towns all closed after ten o'clock, and it would be very unfair that people on coming out of them should not be able to get any refreshments before they went home. It was said that in this case there was a discretion, and that it was optional whether the public-houses should be closed at ten o'clock. That was exactly what he objected to. When all the conditions were perfectly well known, he thought it would be much better that the Legislature should settle what the hours of opening and closing should be. If there was a difference between Edinburgh and Glasgow, it would not be because the circumstances of the two cities were different, but because the magistrates in each took a different view on the temperance question. He did not think that was fair either to the trade or to the public.

MR. CALDWELL said that when the Burgh Police Bill went originally through the House of Commons, both the Committee and the House unanimously put the whole of the burghs in Scotland on one footing. It was in the House of Lords that the difference was brought in, and rather than lose the Bill the Commons accepted the Lords' Amendment. Ever since then it was found in the case of the small burghs a great advantage to have an optional power of closing early; and there was not a burgh in Scotland which would wish to go back to eleven o'clock closing. All the large burghs, with the exception of Edinburgh, had asked to have the optional power to close at ten o'clock. If Edinburgh did not wish to exercise the option, Edinburgh could remain open till eleven o'clock.

SIR CHARLES RENSHAW (Renfrewshire, W.) said he was not sure that his hon. friend who represented Edinburgh West, represented the views of the larger burghs in Scotland on this matter. No doubt in the case of Edinburgh there was something in the argument which his hon. friend had placed before the House; but so far as he understood the position of the six larger burghs, he believed that Aberdeen had already, by voluntary agreement, fixed ten o'clock as the hour of closing; while in the case of Greenock ten o'clock had been fixed on all days of the week except Saturday. He understood that Glasgow had asked with a very loud voice that this very great benefit of an optional power of closing at ten o'clock should be given to it. Under these circumstances the House ought to have no hesitation in supporting the Government in this matter.

MR. GRETTON said that after the discussion which had taken place he would withdraw his Amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. EUGENE WASON (Clackmannan and Kinross) said that on behalf of his hon. friend the Member for Kincardineshire he wished to amend Schedule 6 by providing that the licence holder should not himself be, or permit any of his servants to be, in a state of intoxication on the premises.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 65, line 5, after the word, 'premises,' to insert the words 'and do not himself be, or permit any of his servants to be, in a state of intoxication on the premises.'"—(*Mr. Eugene Wason.*)

* MR. A. GRAHAM MURRAY said he would accept the Amendment if the hon. Member would agree to omit the words "or permit any of his servants to be."

MR. EUGENE WASON said he accepted the suggestion.

Amendment, as amended, agreed to.

MR. BLACK (Banffshire) said that on behalf of the hon. Member for Kincardineshire he wished to move to amend the schedule by leaving out "14" and inserting "16," the effect of which would be to raise the age to sixteen, below which it would be incompetent for any licence-holder to supply liquor to children. This was in accordance with the unanimous recommendations of the Royal Commission, and with, he believed, the practice and law in England. To show the views of the trade, Mr. Robertson, Wine and Spirit Merchant, Edinburgh, in his evidence before the Royal Commission went the length of saying that if a boy under eighteen came into his shop and asked for a glass of beer he would recommend him to take a cup of tea or coffee. He begged to move.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 65, line 8, to leave out the word 'fourteen,' and insert the word 'sixteen.'"—(*Mr. Black.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'fourteen' stand part of the Bill."

* MR. A. GRAHAM MURRAY said that this Amendment would be quite inconsistent with Clauses 57 and 58. Clause 58 was the "Child Messengers Bill" engrafted on to this Bill. Clause 57 was quite different. It said that the licence-holder was not to give spirits to any young person under sixteen years of age for consumption on the premises. He might give the young person beer or spirits as a messenger if the messenger was not under fourteen years of age. If the hon. Member's clause were carried it would be a breach of certificate to give any excisable liquor to a messenger or anybody else. He saw no reason to do that after only one year's experience of that Act.

SIR ROBERT REID said the Amendment might be inconsistent with, and yet not be repugnant to, a provision of the Bill. The child messenger was only part of the whole. Scotland, in these matters, had always been in advance of England, but in this case she was behind. That in itself was a sufficient reason for this Amendment, and he would give his hearty support.

SIR. J. FERGUSSON (Manchester, N.E.) said it seemed to him to be more objectionable to send a girl of sixteen to a public-house as a messenger than a child of fourteen.

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 200; Noes, 93. (Division List No. 182.)

AYES.

Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Allhusen, Aug. Henry Eden
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Anstruther, H. T.
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Arrol, Sir William
Aubrey-Fletcher, Rt. Hn. Sir H.
Bailey, James (*Walworth*)
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Baird, John George Alexander
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J. (*Man'r*
Balfour, Rt. Hn. G. W. (*Leeds*
Balfour, Kenneth R. (*Christch*
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Beach, Rt. Hon. Sir M. Hicks
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bill, Charles
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bond, Edward
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith
Bowles, T. Gibson (*Lynn Regis*)
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Butcher, John George
Campbell, Rt. Hn. J. A (*Glasgow*
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Cavendish, V. C. W. (*Derbysh.*
Cayzer, Sir Charles William
Cecil, Evelyn (*Aston Manor*)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (*Greenwich*)
Chamberlain, Rt Hon J (*Birm*
Chamberlain, Rt. Hn. J A (*Worc*
Chamberlayne, T. (*South'mpt'n*
Chapman, Edward
Charrington, Spencer

Churchill, Winston Spencer
Clare, Octavius Leigh
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colston, Chas. Edw. H. Athole
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Cook, Sir Frederick Lucas
Cox, Irwin Edward Bainbridge
Cripps, Charles Alfred
Crossley, Rt. Hon. Sir Savile
Davenport, William Bromley
Denny, Colonel
Devlin, Joseph (*Kilkenny, N.*)
Dewar, Sir T. R.(*Tr. Haml'ts*
Dickson, Charles Scott
Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
Doogan, P. C.
Dorington, Rt. Hon. Sir J. E.
Doughty, George
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers
Duke, Henry Edward
Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas
Faber, E. B. (*Hants, W.*)
Faber, George Denison (*York*)
Fardell, Sir T. George
Fergusson, Rt. Hn. Sir J.(*Man'r*
Finch, Rt. Hn. George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Firbank, Sir Joseph Thomas
Fisher, William Hayes
Fitzroy, Hon. Edw. Algernon
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Flower, Ernest
Forster, Henry William
Gardner, Ernest
Garfit, William
Gibbs, Hn. Vicary (*St. Albans*
Godson, Sir Augustus Fredk.
Gordon, Hn J E(*Elginand Nairn*
Gore, Hn G. R. C. Ormsby-(*Salop*
Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
Goschen, Hon. George Joachim
Greene, Henry D. (*Shrewsbury*
Greene, W. Raymond (*Cambs*
Grenfell, William Henry
Gretton, John
Greville, Hon. Ronald
Groves, James Grimble
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Gunter, Sir Robert
Guthrie, Walter Murray
Hall, Edward Marshall
Hamilton, Rt Hn Lord G. (*Mid'x*
Hamilton, Marq. of (*Londondy*
Hardy, Laurence (*Kent, Ashfd*
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Haslam, Sir Alfred S.
Hatch, Ernest Frederick Geo.
Heath, Arthur H. (*Hanley*)
Helder, Augustus
Henderson, Sir Alexander
Hermon-Hodge, Sir Robert T.
Hickman, Sir Alfred
Hobhouse, Rt Hn H (*Somrst E*
Houston, Robert Paterson
Howard, Jno (*Kent, Faver'hm*
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Jessel, Captain Herbert Merton
Kenyon, Hon. G. T. (*Denbigh*
King, Sir Henry Seymour
Knowles, Lees
Lambton, Hon. Fredk. Wm.
Law, Andrew Bonar (*Glasgow*)
Lawrence, Wm. F. (*Liverpool*
Lawson, John Grant (*Yorks, NR*
Lees, Sir Elliott (*Birkenhead*)
Leveson-Gower, Frederick N. S
Llewellyn, Evan Henry
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Long, Rt. Hn. W. (*Bristol, S.*
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lowe, Francis William
Lowther, C. (*Cumb. Eskdale*)
Lucas, Reg'ld J. (*Portsmouth*)
Lundon, W.
Lyttelton, Hon. Alfred
Macdona, John Cumming
Maconochie, A. W.
M'Iver, Sir Lewis (*Edinburgh W*
M'Killop, Jas. (*Stirlingshire*)
M'Killop W. (*Sligo North*)
Majendie, James A. H.
Massey-Mainwaring, Hn. W. F.
Maxwell, Rt Hn Sir H E (*Wigt'n*)
Melville, Beresford Valentine
Milvain, Thomas
Mitchell, William (*Burnley*)
Molesworth, Sir Lewis
Montagu, G. (*Huntingdon*)
Montagu, Hon. J. Scott (*Hants.*)
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
Morgan, Hn. F. (*Monm'thsh.*)
Morrell, George Herbert
Morton, Arthur H. Aylmer
Mowbray, Sir Robt. Gray C.
Murray, Rt. Hn A Graham (*Bute*
Murray, Chas. J. (*Coventry*)
Murray, Col. Wyndham (*Bath*
Nicholson, William Graham
Nolan, Joseph (*Louth, S.*)
O'Brien, Patrick (*Kilkenny*)
O'Brien, P. J. (*Tipperary, N.*)
O'Connor, Jas. (*Wicklow, W.*)
O'Malley, William
Orr-Ewing, Charles Lindsay
Palmer, Walter (*Salisbury*)
Pemberton, John S. G.
Percy, Earl
Pretyman, Ernest George
Purvis, Robert
Randles, John S.
Reddy, M.
Remnant, James Farquharson
Renshaw, Sir Charles Bine
Renwick, George
Ridley, S. F. (*Bethnal Green*)
Ritchie, Rt. Hn. C. Thomson
Robertson, Herbert (*Hackney*)
Ropner, Colonel Sir Robert
Round, Rt. Hon. James
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Rutherford, John (*Lancashire*)
Rutherford W. W. (*Liverpool*)
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford-
Sadler, Col. Samuel Alexander
Samuel, Harry S. (*Limehouse*)
Seely, Maj. J. E. B. (*Isle of Wight*
Seton-Karr, Sir Henry
Shaw-Stewart, M. H. (*Renfrew*
Sinclair, Louis (*Romford*)
Smith, James Parker (*Lanarks*
Smith, Hn. W. F. D. (*Strand*)
Stanley, Lord (*Lancs.*)
Stirling-Maxwell, Sir Jn. M.
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Stroyan, John
Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
Talbot, Lord E. (*Chichester*)
Talbot, Rt. Hn. J. G (*Oxf'd Univ*
Thorburn, Sir Walter
Tollemache, Henry James
Tufnell, Lieut.-Col. Edward
Valentia, Viscount
Walrond, Rt. Hn. Sir William H
Warde, Colonel C. E.
Whiteley, H. (*Ashton und. Lyne*
Williams Rt Hn J Powell-(*Birm*
Willoughby de Eresby, Lord
Wilson, A. Stanley (*York, E.R.*
Wodehouse, Rt. Hn. E. R. (*Bath*
Worsley-Taylor, Henry Wilson
Wortley, Rt. Hn. C. B. Stuart
Yerburgh, Robt. Armstrong

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Mr. Fellowes.

NOES.

Allen, Charles P (*Glouc., Stroud*
Asher, Alexander
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Asquith, Rt. Hon. Herbt. Hy.
Barlow, John Emmott
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Bayley, Thomas (*Derbyshire*)
Bignold, Arthur
Bolton, Thomas Dolling
Brigg, John
Broadhurst, Henry
Brown, George M. (*Edinburgh*
Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Burt, Thomas
Caldwell, James
Cameron, Robert
Cawley, Frederick
Channing, Francis Allston
Corbett, A. Cameron (*Glasg.*)
Craig, Robert Hunter (*Lanark*)
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, Alfred (*Carmarthen*)
Davies, M. Vaughan (*Cardigan*
Duncan J. Hastings
Dunn, Sir William
Elibank, Master of
Emmott, Alfred
Evans, Saml. T. (*Glamorgan*)
Fenwick, Charles
Gladstone, Rt Hn. Herbert John
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Grey, Rt. Hn. Sir E. (*Berwick*
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Hardie, J. Keir (*Merthyr Tydvil*
Harmsworth, R. Leicester
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Chas. Seale-
Hayter, Rt Hon Sir Arthur D.
Hope, John Deans (*Fife, West*)
Hutchinson, Dr. Charles Fredk
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jones, William (*Carnarvonsh.*
Kearley, Hudson E.
Langley, Batty

Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leese, Sir Jos. F. (*Accrington*)
Lewis, John Herbert
Mansfield, Horace Rendall
Markham, Arthur Basil
Mitchell, Edw. (*Fermanagh, N.*
Morgan, J. Lloyd (*Carmarthen*
Newnes, Sir George
Nussey, Thomas Willans
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Partington, Oswald
Paulton, James Mellor
Philipps, John Wynford
Pirie, Duncan V.
Price, Robert John
Reid, Sir R. Threshie (*Dumfries*)
Rigg, Richard
Roberts, John H. (***Denbighs.***)
Roe, Sir Thomas
Samuel, Herbert L. (*Cleveland*
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Charles Edw. (*Stafford*)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair, John (*Forfarshire*)
Sloan, Thomas Henry
Smith, H. C (*North'mb Tyneside*
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Soares, Ernest J.
Spear, John Ward
Spencer, Rt Hn C. R. (*Northants*
Taylor, Theodore C. (*Radcliffe*
Tennant, Harold John
Thomas, Sir A. (*Glamorgan, E.*
Thomas, David Alfred (*Merthyr*
Thomas, F. Freeman (*Hastings*
Tomkinson, James
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Wallace, Robert
Warner, Thos. Courtenay T.
Wason, John Cathcart (*Orkney*
Weir, James Galloway
Whitley, J. H. (*Halifax*)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Wilson, Henry J. (*York, W. R.*
Wilson, John (*Durham, Mid*)
Wilson, John (*Glasgow*)
Wylie, Alexander
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Black and Mr. Eugene Wason.

* MR. A. GRAHAM MURRAY said in Committee an Amendment was carried against him fixing the hour for the opening of licensed premises at ten o'clock in the morning. He desired to move an Amendment which stood on the Paper in the name of the Member for South-West Manchester, re-establishing the present hour of opening at eight o'clock, and thereby providing a uniform hour for the premises of both publicans and grocers. He thought to delay the hour of opening for grocers until ten in the morning would be very prejudicial to the grocery trade, and it was impossible to make a distinction between the grocery business and the sale of excisable liquors on the same premises. He begged to move—

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 65, line 12, leave out the words 'such hour' and insert the words 'eight of the clock.'"—(*The Lord Advocate.*)

Question proposed, "That the words 'such hour' stand part of the Bill."

COLONEL DENNY (Kilmarnock Burghs) said he rose with some diffidence to oppose the Amendment. He could not overlook the fact that very cogent reasons were given in Committee for the hour being changed, and the hour was changed by a vote of twenty-two to nine, the majority not being confined to one side of the House. He some two years ago, had brought in a Bill to restrict the hour of opening to ten o'clock, and on that occasion had gone into the whole question. If a workman was late at his work and was stopped off till after breakfast, he could not go home because his home was not ready for him, and if licensed houses were open he was subjected to the great temptation to drink under the worst conditions—namely, on an empty stomach. He would be glad to accept as a compromise the Amendment which appeared a little lower down in the name of the Lord Advocate to make the hour nine, but he could not support this Amendment. The great majority of Scottish Members were in favour of restricting the hour to ten o'clock and he hoped the House would reject this Amendment.

SIR ROBERT REID said he heartily agreed with the Member who had just sat down, and hoped the House would take the same view. The Lord Advocate himself had put down an Amendment to fix the hour of opening at nine o'clock. He thought that might be accepted as a compromise.

SIR J. STIRLING-MAXWELL (Glasgow, College) said if he understood the schedule rightly a grocer was at liberty to open his premises at any hour he liked except for the sale of excisable liquors. He thought the House ought to give the Lord Advocate the opportunity of moving his own Amendment by defeating his present proposal.

SIR J. FERGUSSON, who also opposed the Amendment, stated that he was much impressed when sitting on the Commission on Grocers' Licences by the evidence given by chief constables and others that workmen were tempted before breakfast to indulge in the raw spirits sold by some houses. That was proved before the Commission. That temptation would be removed if the hour of opening was fixed at ten o'clock.

Mr PARKER SMITH (Lanarkshire, Partick) regretted that the Lord Advocate should have given up his own Amendment and moved that of the hon. Member for South-West Manchester. The Bill as it stood made the hour ten o'clock. If that was going too far the Amendment in the name of the Lord Advocate would surely meet the case. By nine o'clock a man's home was ready for him, and the mischief of a man who was shut out from work going to get drink because no other place was open was avoided. The burden on the grocers was comparatively light, as they could keep their shops open from eight to nine o'clock and do everything except sell excisable liquors during that hour. This was a matter in which Scotch opinion ought to be respected, and he hoped the Lord Advocate would abstain from appointing Government tellers in the division, so that Members could vote without consideration of Party.

*Sir ANDREW AGNEW thought that the feeling in Scotland was not nearly so strong as the hon. Member for Partick assumed. He should certainly vote for the Amendment. Ten o'clock would be an absurdly late hour to fix; nine o'clock was preferable to ten; but the present hour of eight o'clock was better still, and no good reason had been given why it should be changed. Two hundred years ago beer was universally drunk for breakfast, and he failed to see why it should be a crime to take a glass for breakfast now.

Mr. DALZIEL (Kirkcaldy Burghs) joined in the appeal to the Lord Advocate to allow the question to be voted on freely. It was really a question of whether or not the Scotch people were to be trusted in this matter. By leaving Members free to vote according to their conviction the wishes of the Scotch people would be consulted, and he assured the Lord Advocate that the adoption of any other course would not facilitate the progress of the Bill.

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 107; Noes 168. (Division List No. 183.)

AYES.

Allen, Chas. P. (*Glos., Stroud*)
Arrol, Sir William
Asher, Alexander
Baird, John George Alexander
Balfour, Capt. C. B. (*Hornsey*
Barlow, John Emmott
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Bayley, Thomas (*Derbyshire*)
Bignold, Arthur
Black, Alexander William
Bolton, Thomas Dolling
Brigg, John
Broadhurst, Henry
Brown, George M. (*Edinburgh*)
Bryce, Right Hon. James
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Caldwell, James
Cameron, Robert
Campbell, Rt. Hn. J. A. (*Glasg.*)
Cawley, Frederick
Cayzer, Sir Charles William
Channing, Francis Allston
Corbett, A. Cameron (*Glasg.*)
Corbett, T. L. (*Down, North*)
Craig, Robert Hunter (*Lanark*
Cross, Alexander (*Glasgow*)
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, Alfred (*Carmarthen*)
Davies, M. Vaughan-(*Cardigan*
Duncan, J. Hastings
Dunn, Sir William
Edwards, Frank
Elibank, Master of
Emmott, Alfred
Evans, Saml. T. (*Glamorgan*)
Fenwick, Charles
Foster, Sir Walter (*Derby Co.*)
Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herbert J.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Hardie, J. Keir (*Merthyr Tydvil*
Harmsworth, R. Leicester
Harwood, George
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Charles Seale-
Holland, Sir William Henry
Hope, John Deans (*Fife, West*)
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jones, Wm. (*Carnarvonshire*)
Kenyon, Hon. G. T. (*Denbigh*
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (*Cornwall*)
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leveson-Gower, Frederick N. S.
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lundon, W.
Maconochie, A. W.
M'Killop, Jas. (*Stirlingshire*)
Mansfield, Horace Rendall
Markham, Arthur Basil
Mitchell, Edw. (*Fermanagh, N.*
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
Morgan, J. Lloyd (*Carmarthen*)
Newnes, Sir George
Nussey, Thomas Willans
Orr-Ewing, Charles Lindsay
Partington, Oswald
Pemberton, John S. G.
Philipps, John Wynford
Reid, Sir R. Threshie (*Dumfries*)
Renshaw, Sir Charles Bine
Rigg, Richard
Roberts, John H. (*Denbighs.*)
Roe, Sir Thomas
Russell, T. W.
Samuel, Herbert L. (*Cleveland*)
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Charles E. (*Stafford*)
Shaw-Stewart, M. H. (*Renfrew*)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair, John (*Forfarshire*)
Sloan, Thomas Henry
Smith, James Parker (*Lanarks.*
Smith, Hn. W. F. D. (*Strand*)
Soares, Ernest J.
Spear, John Ward
Stevenson, Francis S.
Stirling-Maxwell, Sir John M.
Talbot, Rt. Hn. J. G. (*Oxf'd Univ*
Taylor, Theodore C. (*Radcliffe*)
Tennant, Harold John
Thomas, Sir A. (*Glamorgan, E.*)
Thomas, David Alfred (*Merthyr*
Thomson, F. W. (*York, W. R.*)
Thorburn, Sir Walter
Tomkinson, James
Toulmin, George
Wason, Eugene (*Clackmannan*
Wason, John Cathcart (*Orkney*)

Weir, James Galloway
Whitley, J. H. (*Halifax*)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Williams, Osmond(*Merioneth*)
Wilson, H. J. (*York, W. R.*)
Wilson, John (*Durham, Mid*)
Wilson, John (*Falkirk*)
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE AYES —
Sir James Fergusson and
Colonel Denny.

NOES.

Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Allhusen, Aug. Henry Eden
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Anstruther, H. T.
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Aubrey-Fletcher, Rt. Hn. Sir H.
Bailey, James (*Walworth*)
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (*Manch'r*
Balfour, Rt Hn Gerald W. (*Leeds*
Balfour, Kenneth R. (*Christch.*
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Beach, Rt. Hon. Sir M. Hicks
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.
Bill, Charles
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bond, Edward
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Butcher, John George
Campbell, John (*Armagh, S.*)
Cavendish, V. C. W. (*Derbyshire*
Cecil, Evelyn (*Aston Manor*)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (*Greenwich*)
Chamberlain, Rt Hon J (*Birm*
Chamberlain, Rt. Hn. J A (*Worc*
Chamberlayne, T. (*Southmptn*
Chapman, Edward
Charrington, Spencer
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Clare, Octavius Leigh
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colomb, Sir John Charles Ready
Colston, Chas. Edw. H. Athole
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Cook, Sir Frederick Lucas
Cranborne, Viscount
Crossley, Rt. Hon. Sir Savile
Davenport, William Bromley
Devlin, Joseph (*Kilkenny, N.*)
Dewar, Sir T. R. (*Tower Hamlets*)
Dickson, Charles Scott
Doughty, George
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers
Duke, Henry Edward
Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas
Faber, E. B. (*Hants, W.*)
Faber, George Denison (*York*)
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
Fitzroy, Hon. Edw. Algernon
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Flower, Ernest
Forster, Henry William
Galloway, William Johnson
Gardner, Ernest
Garfit, William
Gibbs, Hn. Vicary (*St. Albans*
Gordon, Maj Evans (*Tr. Hmlts*
Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir J. Eldon
Goschen, Hon. George Joachim
Greene, Henry D. (*Shrewsbury*)
Greene, W. Raymond (*Cambs*
Grenfell, William Henry
Gretton, John
Greville, Hon. Ronald
Groves, James Grimble
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Guthrie, Walter Murray
Hall, Edward Marshall
Hamilton, Rt Hn Ld. G. (*Midx*
Hamilton, Marq. of (*Londondy*
Hardy, Laurence (*Kent, Ashfd*
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Haslam, Sir Alfred S.
Hatch, Ernest Frederick Geo.
Heath, Arthur H. (*Hanley*)
Helder, Augustus
Hermon-Hodge, Sir Robert T.
Hickman, Sir Alfred
Hobhouse, Rt Hn H (*Somrst E*
Houldsworth, Sir Wm. Henry
Hoult, Joseph
Houston, Robert Paterson
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Jessel, Captain Herbert Merton
Kilbride, Denis
King, Sir Henry Seymour
Knowles, Lees
Lambton, Hon. Frederick Wm.
Law, Andrew Bonar (*Glasgow*
Lawrence, Wm. F. (*Liverpool*
Lawson, John Grant (*Yorks N. R*
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Llewellyn, Evan Henry
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (*Bristol, S*
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lowe, Francis William
Lucas, Reginald J. (*Portsmouth*
Macdona, John Cumming
M'Iver, Sir Lewis (*Edinburgh W*
M'Killop, W. (*Sligo, North*)
Maxwell, Rt Hn Sir H E (*Wigt'n*
Melville, Beresford Valentine
Milvain, Thomas
Mitchell, William (*Burnley*)
Molesworth, Sir Lewis
Montagu, G. (*Huntingdon*)
Montagu, Hon. J. Scott (*Hants.*
Morgan, Hn. Fred. (*Monm'thsh.*
Morrell, George Herbert
Morton, Arthur H. Aylmer
Mowbray, Sir Robert Gray C.
Murray, Rt Hn A. Graham (*Bute*
Murray, Col. Wyndham (*Bath*
Nicholson, William Graham
Nolan, Joseph (*Louth, S.*)
O'Brien, P. J. (*Tipperary, N.*)
O'Dowd, John
Palmer, Walter (*Salisbury*)
Peel, Hn Wm. Robert Wellesley
Percy, Earl
Pierpoint, Robert
Pretyman, Ernest George
Purvis, Robert
Randles, John S.
Remnant, James Farquharson
Ridley, S. Forde (*Bethnal Green*
Ritchie, Rt. Hn. C. Thomson
Roberts, Samuel (*Sheffield*)
Robertson, Herbert (*Hackney*)
Ropner, Colonel Sir Robert
Round, Rt. Hon. James
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Rutherford, John (*Lancashire*
Rutherford, W. W. (*Liverpool*)
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford-
Samuel, Harry S. (*Limehouse*)
Sandys, Lt.-Col. Thos. Myles
Seton-Karr, Sir Henry
Sinclair, Louis (*Romford*)
Stanley, Lord (*Lancs.*)
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Stroyan, John
Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
Talbot, Lord E. (*Chichester*)
Tollemache, Henry James
Tomlinson, Sir Wm. Edw. M.
Tufnell, Lieut.-Col. Edward
Valentia, Viscount
Walrond, Rt. Hn. Sir Wm. H.
Webb, Colonel William George
Whiteley, H. (*Ashton und Lyne*
Williams, Rt Hn J Powell- (*Birm*
Willoughby de Eresby, Lord
Wilson, A. Stanley (*York, E. R.*)
Wodehouse, Rt. Hn. E. R. (*Bath*
Worsley-Taylor, Henry Wilson
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart
Yerburgh, Robt. Armstrong

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Mr. Fellowes.

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted in the Bill."

And, it being half-past seven of the clock, further consideration of the Bill, as amended (in the Standing Committee), stood adjourned till this Evening's Sitting.

EVENING SITTING.

LICENSING ACTS (SCOTLAND) CONSOLIDATION AND AMENDMENT BILL.

As amended (by the Standing Committee), further considered.

Proceedings resumed on Amendment proposed to the Bill.

"In page 65, line 12, in lieu of words omitted [22nd July], to insert the words 'eight of the clock.'"—(*The Lord Advocate.*)

Question again proposed, "That those words be there inserted in the Bill."

SIR J. STIRLING-MAXWELL formally moved that nine o'clock should be substituted for eight o'clock as the earliest hour of opening.

Amendment proposed to the proposed Amendment to the Bill—

"To leave out the word 'eight' and insert the word 'nine.'"—(*Sir J. Stirling-Maxwell.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'eight' stand part of the proposed Amendment to the Bill."

MR. GRETTON said he thought it a curious proceeding to move an important alteration of this kind without one word of explanation. The House was in the dark as to what the reasons were for such an Amendment. The Lord Advocate had advanced excellent reasons for the hour being eight o'clock, but no good reason had been given for this change. It seemed to be the general idea among the Scottish Members that no Scotchman could resist the temptation of going into a licensed house, but in his opinion Scotchmen were just as well able to control themselves in this regard as Englishmen or Irishmen. It was undoubtedly a burdensome hardship that grocers who possessed licences should not be allowed to open before nine o'clock, because the wives of those who went to work at half-past five or six o'clock in the morning were compelled to make their purchases early. He thought the present restrictions were quite sufficient to guard against any excesses in this regard, and he thought, no good arguments having been adduced in favour of the Amendment, the House of Commons would only be doing its duty by rejecting it.

SIR ROBERT REID said there was not much use in prolonging this discussion. Hon. Members opposite were fully aware of the fact that they were masters of the situation. The opinion expressed by Scottish Members had been overruled by people who knew nothing about the particular conditions of Scotland, and whose opinions, it might be, were biased by their having a personal interest in the matter.

MR. GRETTON, interposing, denied that he had any personal interest in the matter. [OPPOSITION cries of "Oh."] He had put the case of persons who formed, no doubt, a minority in Scotland, but whose case ought not on that account to be refused a hearing. Gentlemen opposite might give him credit for sometimes taking up a case in which he was not interested.

*MR. SPEAKER pointed out that it was out of order to impute an improper motive to an hon. Member.

SIR ROBERT REID said he had not imputed any such motive. He had said that the House had arguments repeatedly from hon. Gentlemen who were biased by the fact that they themselves were interested. All of us were liable to be biased by our own particular position. In conclusion, he expressed his regret at the attitude maintained by the Lord Advocate in this matter. The right hon. Gentleman had himself placed on the Paper a proposal in favour of the hour of nine o'clock.

MR. A. GRAHAM MURRAY said he did not complain of the tone of the hon. and learned Member's speech. He recognised that he (the Lord Advocate) had tried his best to accommodate very conflicting interests. The only complaint he had to make was this—hon. Members, with perfectly good motives, forgot that, after all, the Bill in its inception was a compromise Bill. The Government, in putting forward their proposals, never supposed that they were going to please everybody. All they claimed for the Bill was that it was a genuine attempt at temperance reform, and he believed that the verdict of Scotland, when the Bill was passed, would be that the Government had really contributed to the cause of temperance. But they never supposed they were going to conciliate the diverse interests involved in the Bill. He could recognise no moral difference between the interest on one side or on the other. He recognised the interest of any philanthropist, but he also recognised the interest of the man who was carrying on an honest trade, and he did not see that he was bound to sacrifice his opinions to those of any philanthropist. The Bill, as he had said, was a compromise Bill, and he had to face opposition from both quarters. He had been far too long a member of a Grand Committee not to know that it was an extraordinary arena in which anybody might very easily have a fall, and that the decisions come to in the Grand Committee did not always reflect the opinion of the House. Why should the eighty or eighty five members of the Grand Committee decide questions of great policy in such a way that they were not to be allowed to discuss them when they came down to the House? As to the time-worn cry that the opinion of the Scottish Members was over-ruled by the English Members in the House, he had heard that so often that he paid no more attention to it than to the old cry of "wolf." He had no doubt that the hon. and learned Member for Dumfries had voted in many a division when he had not given them the benefit of his attendance during the debate. As to this particular Amendment hon. Members seemed to forget what his difficulties were. He had put down the Amendment because he wanted to see whether it would be a compromise which would be generally acceptable, but he did so along with another determination to which he had come as to the hours of closing in the evening. He had thrown in the weight of the Government against his hon. friend behind him, who spoke in support of his present position. Hon. Members seemed to forget the extraordinary difficulty of the situation. He agreed that there might be cases where the opening of the public-house in the morning was a temptation to the working man, but they had got to consider the whole situation throughout the country. When they came to what was called the predominance of Scottish opinion, if hon. Members asked their constituents whether they thought it would be for their convenience to cut off all forms of getting liquor before nine o'clock, he believed they would find that Scottish opinion was the other way. He had no hesitation in saying that throughout the length and breadth of Scotland that the trade of the grocers would be practically hampered if they did not allow them to open at eight o'clock. He had to consider what was just and right not only for one section of the public, but for the community as a whole, and he had come to the conclusion that the best thing he could do was to make the concession he had made as to the later hour of closing, and at the same time to stick to the hour of opening which had obtained in Scotland all these years—namely, eight o'clock.

Mr. BUCHANAN (Perthshire, E.) said that all Scottish Members asked was that the Lord Advocate should adhere to his own Amendment, allowing a discretion up to nine o'clock, and which must be taken to express the Resolution he had come to as the Member of the Government in charge of the Bill. He, as a Scottish Member, resented the interference of certain hon. Members representing English constituencies, who naturally considered the subject from a different point of view. And as to the cynical sneer at the time-worn cry of the opinion of Scottish Members, what were Scottish Members there for except to voice Scottish opinion? It was the time-worn cry of Scottish Members that ought to decide Scottish questions in this House. It was absurd for the responsible Minister for Scotland in this House to sneer at the opinion of Scottish Members. Scottish Members in this House had an overwhelming case for the cry they made.

*Mr. SHAW-STEWART (Renfrewshire, E.) said he thought that a large majority of Scottish Members were in favour of this Amendment. They had, up to the present, only heard the voice of one Scottish Member, besides the right hon. Gentleman himself, who had raised his voice against this Amendment. He believed one hon. Member for Edinburgh did advocate a glass of beer for breakfast in the morning. The speech of the hon. Member for Kilmarnock Burghs must have carried conviction to all who heard it. The hon. Member explained how working men arriving late at big works were locked out and had no other place to go to but the public-house. If that was the experience of his hon. friend the Member for Kilmarnock Burghs, surely the same experience obtained over the length and breadth of Scotland. That was a very strong argument in favour of the Amendment providing that public-houses should open at nine instead of eight o'clock. There was another argument which made them anxious to discuss this question and to divide upon it, and it was that until to-day they were under the impression that the Lord Advocate was going to move the Amendment standing in his name on the Paper, and they were all quite satisfied to accept his Amendment as reasonable. There was, perhaps, one class upon whom it would have fallen hard, namely, the licensed grocers, but an Amendment standing in his name would have enabled licensed grocers to have sent out their goods at eight o'clock.

*MR. A. GRAHAM MURRAY said that never in his life had he received so many telegrams as he had done that day protesting against this Amendment.

*MR. SHAW-STEWART said his right hon. friend ought to be too old a campaigner to be influenced by telegrams. He believed that the Lord Advocate was anxious to do justice to all parties, and he had endeavoured to do so on the present occasion, but, in arriving at the decision he had done, he was sure he would not have the majority of the votes of Scottish Members with him.

MR. DALZIEL said he was sorry the Lord Advocate had not given them a more adequate excuse for his proposal. The present Government were so tottering and weak that they could not receive a few telegrams without giving way. The Lord Advocate had gone away from his own Amendment, and had given no reason for doing so except that he had received a certain number of telegrams. The Minister for Scotland appeared to have the greatest contempt for the opinion of Scottish Members. He believed that three-fourths of the Members representing Scotland were in favour of later opening in the morning. He should be very curious to see whether Edinburgh was going to rest satisfied with the position taken up by its representative that the capital of Scotland was to be the one place represented in the House of Commons which was against later opening so far as public-houses were concerned. He should await the result with interest, because he doubted whether that was the real position in Edinburgh. The strongest argument for later opening was a very simple one. Working men mostly went to work at six o'clock, and their breakfast hour was between eight and nine o'clock. If the public-houses were open, instead of going home the men would probably go to the nearest public-house and have breakfast there, followed by a certain amount of liquor. It was the practical experience of employers in Scotland that once working men got to the public-house during the breakfast hour they were practically useless for the rest of the day. It was the duty of a Government pretending to be doing something for temperance in Scotland to lessen the temptation to working men at that hour of the morning. He was sorry that the Lord Advocate had allowed himself to be prevailed upon by the English legion in this matter, and he had allowed their influence to outweigh his judgment by taking up a position which would not be supported by Scottish opinion.

*SIR HERBERT MAXWELL (Wigtonshire) said that nothing had surprised him more in this debate than the character attributed to the working men of Scotland. He claimed to have some acquaintance with Scottish working men, and undoubtedly there was not a single feature in the speech of the hon. Member for Kirkcaldy Burghs which he could identify as being characteristic of them. The hon. Member had said something about them drinking whiskey at eight o'clock in the morning. Did he mean to say that that was the habit of the working men in Scotland? If he did, all he had to say was that it was contrary to his experience of them.

MR. DALZIEL: Then why do you want to keep the public-houses open?

*SIR HERBERT MAXWELL said he could only speak from his own experience, and upon that experience he wished to enter a protest against the character which had been given to Scotch working men in this respect during the present debate.

MR. DALZIEL said he was sure the hon. Baronet did not wish to misrepresent him. He did not say anything of the kind. What he said was that there were Scottish working men who could not stand the temptation of being in a public-house at that hour of the morning.

*SIR HERBERT MAXWELL said that his right hon. friend the Member for North-East Manchester drew a picture of a man coming home early in the morning to whom a glass of whiskey proved irresistible. So much for Manchester working men, but he was sure that was not the case in the country districts of Scotland. Although he had received no telegrams upon this subject, he had received many letters from individuals with whom he was acquainted, and those letters pointed out the extreme inconvenience which would arise if the Lord Advocate gave way to the pressure put upon him. There was one other feature to which he, as an old Member of the House of Commons, begged to enter his earnest protest, and that was that these Grand Committees, which were a comparative innovation in Parliamentary procedure, should claim a monopoly of infallibility, as if every decision they arrived at during the luncheon hour or other time was to be treated by the House of Commons as infallible; indeed it seemed to be a kind of blasphemy to question the propriety of decisions arrived at upstairs. He thought the Report stage of any Bill was the proper one to revise the decisions arrived at upstairs, and he trusted the Lord Advocate would adhere to his original intention.

MR. MARKHAM (Nottinghamshire, Mansfield) said that as a challenge had been thrown out he should like to say that so far as his experience went the opening of public-houses in the early morning was a great source of trouble. Speaking as one who went a good deal amongst the working classes he could testify that this was one of the greatest sources of evil amongst them. He had been in public-houses himself in the early morning, and he had seen thousands of instances of British working men losing their employment by going into public-houses at eight o'clock in the morning. The Lord Advocate did not appear to know his own mind, for he placed a reasonable Amendment on the Paper, and at the instance of hon. Members behind him, who were always ready to bring up Amendments against the cause of temperance, he withdrew it.

*MR. A. GRAHAM MURRAY said that was not the case.

MR. MARKHAM said the right hon. Gentleman stated that he had no settled conviction upon this point.

*MR. A. GRAHAM MURRAY: I never used any such phrase in my life.

MR. MARKHAM said the right hon. Gentleman did not appear to know his own mind for many days together. This Amendment was neither in the interests of temperance nor in the interests of the people of Scotland.

MR. CALDWELL pointed out that in the Bill, as it came from the Committee upstairs, the period of opening was to be not earlier than eight o'clock and not later than ten o'clock, and when the Lord Advocate suggested nine o'clock it was agreed to as a compromise. Therefore the whole of the Committee upstairs were obviously in favour of nine o'clock, because ten o'clock included it. The Committee upstairs were of opinion that it should be left to the licensing authority to say whether it should be eight o'clock or nine o'clock. They were now to proceed to a division and the Lord Advocate, with the assistance of English and Irish votes, would vote down the opinion of the people of Scotland, although the circumstances in regard to this question in England and Ireland were totally different to Scotland. In Scotland thay had Sunday closing, but there was not an hon. Member representing a Scottish constituency who would venture to vote for the opening of public-houses on Sunday. It was not fair, in a matter which so materially affected the interests of Scotland, that they should be outvoted by hon. Members from other parts of the United Kingdom where the circumstances were entirely different.

*SIR ANDREW AGNEW claimed that hon. Members opposite did not express the real feeling of Scotland upon this matter. It might be perfectly true that the majority of hon. Members representing Scotland were going to vote for nine o'clock, but that did not prove that that was the feeling of Scotland. He doubted whether half-a-dozen Scottish Members had ever told their constituencies that they intended to vote for later opening.

MR. CALDWELL: They have always said so at every election.

*SIR ANDREW ANGEW said that the hon. Members might have done so, but he doubted whether half-a-dozen Scottish Members had done it. He had never heard this question discussed in Scotland at all. He had heard plenty of discussion as to whether in the larger towns they should close at ten o'clock if they liked, but the question of ten o'clock opening in the morning had never been mooted in Edinburgh. There was no mention of it before the Royal Commission, and it was not alluded to either in the Majority or the Minority Report. He did not believe that this question had been considered in Scotland at all. He had heard a good deal of discussion upon this subject, but he had never heard any allusion to the later opening of public-houses or of licensed grocers' premises until an Amendment was proposed in Committee the other day. The hon. Member for Kilmarnock had spoken of thrusting upon the trade an obligation to open at unprofitable hours. He had received several dozen letters upon this subject, and not one of them complained of having anything thrust upon them, but they all pointed out how inconvenient it would be to have any change made in the present law upon this point.

MR. HUNTER CRAIG said the hon. Member for South Edinburgh was mistaken in saying that this matter of later opening was only mooted for the first time in Committee upstairs. The Secretary for Scotland last year in another place advocated the keeping of public houses closed an hour later than eight o'clock, and when a large deputation, of provosts, magistrates, and town councillors from all parts of Scotland met the Secretary for Scotland in Edinburgh, at which he was present, he repeated his opinion, that it would be in the interest of the public to open an hour later in the morning. That was a very strong argument in favour of the House accepting the Amendment.

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 108; Noes, 86. (Division List No. 184.)

AYES.

Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Anstruther, H. T.
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bailey, James (*Walworth*)
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Kenneth R. (*Christch*
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bond, Edward
Butcher, John George
Cavendish, V. C. W. (*Derbyshire*
Cecil, Evelyn (*Aston Manor*)
Clare, Octavius Leigh
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colomb, Sir John Chas. Ready
Colston, Chas. Edw H. Athole
Cox, Irwin Edward Bainbridge
Crossley, Rt. Hon. Sir Savile
Cullinan, J.
Davenport, William Bromley
Devlin, Joseph (*Kilkenny, N.*)
Dickson, Charles Scott
Doogan, P. C.
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers
Duke, Henry Edward
Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
Elliot, Hon A. Ralph Douglas
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Fitzroy, Hon. Edw. Algernon
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Flower, Ernest
Forster, Henry William
Fyler, John Arthur
Galloway, William Johnson
Gibbs, Hn. Vicary (*St. Albans*
Gordon, Hn. J. E. (*Elgin & Nrn.*
Goschen, Hon. Geo. Joachim
Greene, Henry D. (*Shrewsbury*)
Gretton, John
Greville, Hon. Ronald
Groves, James Grimble
Hamilton, Rt Hn Lord G (*Midd'x*
Hatch, Ernest Frederick G.

Henderson, Sir Alexander
Hermon-Hodge, Sir Robert T.
Hickman, Sir Alfred
Hobhouse, RtHnH (*Somrst E*
Howard, Jno (*Kent, Faver'hm*
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Jebb, Sir Richard Claverhouse
Kilbride, Denis
Law, Andrew Bonar (*Glasgow*
Lawson,JohnGrant(*Yorks.N.R*
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Long, Rt.Hn.Walter(*Bristol,S*
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lowe, Francis William
Lucas, Regl'd J. (*Portsmouth*)
Lundon, W.
Macdona, John Cumming
M'Arthur, Charles (*Liverpool*)
M'Killop, W. (*Sligo, North*)
Majendie, James A. H.
Maxwell,RtHn.SirHE(*Wigt'n*
Milvain, Thomas
Mitchell, William (*Burnley*)
Montagu, G. (*Huntingdon*)
Montagu, Hon.J.Scott(*Hants.*
Morrell, George Herbert
Morton, Arthur H. Aylmer
Mowbray, Sir Robert Gray C.
Murray,Rt.HnAGraham(*Bute*
Murray, Col.Wyndham (*Bath*
O'Connor, Jas. (*Wicklow, W.*)
O'Malley, William
Palmer, Walter (*Salisbury*)
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Pretyman, Ernest George
Purvis, Robert
Rasch, Major FredericCarne
Remnant, James Farquharson
Renshaw, Sir Charles Bine
Renwick, George
Ridley, S. F. (*Bethnal Green*)
Robertson, Herbert (*Hackney*)
Rolleston, Sir John F. L.
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Rutherford, W.W. (*Liverpool*)
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Smith,H.C(*North'mb.Tyneside*
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Stroyan, John
Talbot, Lord E. (*Chichester*)
Tollemache, Henry James
Valentia, Viscount
Walrond,Rt.HnSirWilliamH.
Whiteley,H(*Ashton und. Lyne*
Williams,RtHnJPowell-(*Birm*
Willoughby de Eresby, Lord
Wodehouse,Rt.Hn.E.R.(*Bath*
Worsley-Taylor, Hry. Wilson

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Mr. Fellowes.

NOES.

Allen,CharlesP.(*Glouc.Stroud*
Arrol, Sir William
Baird, John George Alexander
Barlow, John Emmott
Bayley, Thomas (*Derbyshire*)
Bignold, Arthur
Black, Alexander William
Bolton, Thomas Dolling
Brigg, John
Broadhurst, Henry
Brown, George M.(*Edinburgh*)
Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Burt, Thomas
Caldwell, James
Cameron, Robert
Cawley, Frederick
Channing, Francis Allston
Corbett, T. L. (*Down, North*)
Craig, Robert Hunter(*Lanark*)
Cross, Alexander (*Glasgow*)
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, Alfred (*Carmarthen*)
Davies, M. Vaughan (*Cardig'n*
Denny, Colonel
Duncan, J. Hastings
Dunn, Sir William
Edwards, Frank
Elibank, Master of
Emmott, Alfred
Evans, Saml. T. (*Glamorgan*)
Fenwick, Charles
Fuller, J. M. F.
Gorst,Rt.Hon.Sir John Eldon
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Hamilton,Marq. of (*Londondy*
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Hayne, Rt.Hon. Charles Seale-
Hope, John Deans (*Fife, West*)
Howard, J.(*Midd., Tottenham*
Johnstone, Heywood
Jones, Wm. (*Carnarvonshire*)
Kearley, Hudson E.
Law, H. Alex. (*Donegal, W.*)
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (*Cornwall*
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leese, Sir Jos. F. (*Accrington*
Leveson-Gower, Frederick N.S
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
M'Arthur, William(*Cornwall*)
M'Kenna, Reginald
M'Killop, James (*Stirlingshire*
Mansfield, Horace Rendall
Markham, Arthur Basil
Mitchell,Edw.(*Fermanagh,N.*
Newnes, Sir George
Norman, Henry
Orr-Ewing, Charles Lindsay
Philipps, John Wynford
Reid,SirR.Threshie(*Dumfries*)
Rickett, J. Compton
Roberts, John H. (*Denbighs.*)
Runciman, Walter
Russell, T. W.
Schwann, Charles E.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Charles Edw. (*Stafford*)
Shaw-Stewart,M.H.(*Renfrew*)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair, John (*Forfarshire*)
Smith,James Parker(*Lanarks.*
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (*Strand*
Soares, Ernest J.
Talbot,Rt.Hn.J G.(*Oxf'd Univ.*
Taylor, Theodore C.(*Radcliffe*)
Tennant, Harold John
Thomas, SirA.(*Glamorgan,E.*)
Thomas,DavidAlfred(*Merthyr*
Thorburn, Sir Walter
Tomkinson, James
Wason, E. (*Clackmannan*)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Wilson, H. J. (*York, W. R.*)
Wilson, John (*Durham, Mid*)
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Sir John Stirling-Maxwell and Mr. Cameron Corbett.

Proposed words inserted in the Bill.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 65, lines 12 and 13, to leave out the words 'not earlier than eight and not later than ten of the clock as the licensing Court may direct.'"—(*The Lord Advocate.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 66, line 18, to leave out the words 'such hour,' and insert 'eight of the clock.'"—(*The Lord Advocate.*)

Question put, "That the words 'such hour' stand part of the Bill."

The House divided:—Ayes, 71: Noes, 132. (Division List No. 185.)

AYES.

Allen, Chas. P. (*Glos., Stroud*
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Barlow, John Emmott
Bayley, Thomas (*Derbyshire*)
Black, Alexander William
Bolton, Thomas Dolling
Brigg, John
Broadhurst, Henry
Brown, GeorgeM. (*Edinburgh*)

Bryce, Right Hon. James
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Burt, Thomas
Cameron, Robert
Cawley, Frederick
Channing, Francis Allston
Corbett, T. L. (*Down, North*)
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, Alfred (*Carmarthen*)
Davies, M. Vaughan-(*Cardigan*
Duncan J. Hastings
Dunn, Sir William
Edwards, Frank
Elibank, Master of
Emmott, Alfred
Evans, Saml. T. (*Glamorgan*)
Fenwick, Charles
Foster, Sir Walter (*Derby Co.*
Fuller, J. M. F.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Hamilton, Marq. of (*Londondy*
Hardie, J. Keir (*Merthyr Tyd*
Harwood, George
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Chas. Seale-
Hope, John Deans (*Fife, West*)
Jones, William (*Carnarvonshire*
Kearley, Hudson E.
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (*Cornwall*
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leese, Sir Jos. F. (*Accrington*)
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
M'Arthur, William (*Cornwall*
M'Killop, James (*Stirlingshire*)
Mansfield, Horace Rendall
Markham, Arthur Basil
Morgan, J. Lloyd (*Carmarthen*
Newnes, Sir George
Norman, Henry
Nussey, Thomas Willans
Partington, Oswald
Philipps, John Wynford
Rickett, J. Compton
Roberts, John H. (*Denbighs.*)
Rose, Charles Day
Runciman, Walter
Schwann, Charles E.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Charles E. (*Stafford*)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Soares, Ernest J.
Taylor, Theodore C. (*Radcliffe*)
Tennant, Harold John
Thomas, Sir A. (*Glamorgan, E.*
Thomas, David A. (*Merthyr*)
Tomkinson, James
Wason, Eugene (*Clackmannan*)
Whiteley, G. (*York, W. R.*)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Wilson, H. J. (*York, W. R.*)
Wilson, John (*Durham, Mid*)
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Caldwell and Mr. Hunter Craig.

NOES.

Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Anstruther, H. T.
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Arrol, Sir William
Atkinson, Right Hon. John
Aubrey-Fletcher, Rt. Hn. Sir H
Bailey, James (*Walworth*)
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Baird, John George Alexander
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Kenneth R. (*Christch*
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Bignold, Arthur
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bond, Edward
Butcher, John George
Cavendish, V. C. W. (*Derbysh.*)
Cecil, Evelyn (*Aston Manor*)
Clare, Octavius Leigh
Cochrane, Hon. T. H. A. E.
Collings, Right Hon. Jesse
Colomb, Sir John Chas. Ready
Colston, Chas. Edw H. Athole
Cox, Irwin Edwd. Bainbridge
Cross, Alexander (*Glasgow*)
Crossley, Rt. Hon. Sir Savile
Cullinan, J.
Davenport, William Bromley-
Devlin, Joseph (*Kilkenny, N.*)
Dickson, Charles Scott
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers
Duke, Henry Edward
Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Fitzroy, Hon. Edw. Algernon
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Flower, Ernest
Forster, Henry William
Fyler, John Arthur
Galloway, William Johnson
Gibbs, Hn. Vicary (*St. Albans*
Gordon, Hn. J. E. (*Elgin & Nrn*
Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir J. Eldon
Goschen, Hon. George Joachim
Greene, Henry D. (*Shrewsbury*)
Gretton, John
Greville, Hon. Ronald
Groves, James Grimble
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Hatch, Ernest Frederick Geo.
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Helder, Augustus
Henderson, Sir Alexander
Hermon-Hodge, Sir Robert T.
Hickman, Sir Alfred
Hobhouse, Rt Hn H (*Somrst E*
Howard, Jno (*Kent, Faver'hm*
Howard, J. (*Midd., Tott'ham*
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Jebb, Sir Richard Claverhouse
Johnstone, Heywood
Kilbride, Denis
Law, Andrew Bonar (*Glasgow*
Law, H. Alex. (*Donegal, W.*)
Lawson, John Grant (*Yorks. NR*
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leveson-Gower, Frederick N. S.
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lowe, Francis William
Lucas, Reg'ld J. (*Portsmouth*)
Lundon, W.
Macdona, John Cumming
M'Killop, W. (*Sligo, North*)
Majendie, James A. H.
Massey-Mainwaring, Hn. W. F.
Maxwell, Rt Hn Sir H. E. (*Wigt'n*
Milvain, Thomas
Mitchell, Edw. (*Fermanagh N.*
Mitchell, William (*Burnley*)
Montagu, Hon. J. Scott (*Hants.*)
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
Morrell, George Herbert
Morton, Arthur H. Aylmer
Mowbray, Sir Robert Gray C.
Murray, Rt Hn A. Graham (*Bute*
Murray, Col. Wyndham (*Bath*)
Nicholson, William Graham
O'Connor, Jas. (*Wicklow, W.*)
O'Malley, William
Orr-Ewing, Charles Lindsay
Palmer, Walter (*Salisbury*)
Pierpoint, Robert
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Pretyman, Ernest George
Purvis, Robert
Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
Remnant, James Farquharson
Renshaw, Sir Charles Bine
Renwick, George
Ridley, S. Forde (*Bethnal Green*
Ritchie, Rt. Hn. Chas. Thomson
Robertson, Herbert (*Hackney*)
Rolleston, Sir John F. L.
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Russell, T. W.
Rutherford, W. W. (*Liverpool*)
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford-
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Shaw-Stewart, M. H. (*Renfrew*)
Smith, H. C (*North'mb. Tyneside*
Smith, James Parker (*Lanarks.*
Smith, Hn. W. F. D. (*Strand*)
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Stroyan, John
Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
Talbot, Lord E. (*Chichester*)
Talbot, Rt Hn. J. G. (*Oxf'd Univ.*
Taylor, Austin (*East Toxteth*)
Thorburn, Sir Walter
Tollemache, Henry James
Valentia, Viscount
Walrond, Rt. Hn. Sir William H.
Whiteley, H. (*Ashton-u.-Lyne*)
William, Rt Hn J Powell-(*Birm.*
Willoughby de Eresby, Lord
Wilson, A. Stanley (*York, E. R*
Wodehouse, Rt. Hn. E. R. (*Bath*)
Worsley-Taylor, Henry Wilson

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Mr. Fellowes.

Question proposed, "That the words 'eight of the clock' be there inserted in the Bill."

MR. CALDWELL said the reason why it was necessary to take a division on each of these Amendments was that in the schedule there were three distinct certificates, the first for inns and hotels, the second for public houses, and the third for grocers. By dividing on each they were taking the only possible way of making a protest against what was proposed by the Government.

COLONEL DENNY said he felt very strongly on this Amendment, but he was bound to say that after the decision of the House on the first question he did not think they should delay business by dividing again.

The House divided:—Ayes, 41; Noes, 72. (Division List No. 186.)

AYES.

Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Anstruther, H. T.
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Arrol, Sir William
Atkinson, Right Hon. John
Aubrey-Fletcher, Rt. Hn. Sir H.
Bailey, James (*Walworth*)
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Baird, John George Alexander
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Kenneth R. (*Christch*
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Bignold, Arthur
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bond, Edward
Butcher, John George
Cavendish, V C W (*Derbysh.*)
Cecil, Evelyn (*Aston Manor*)
Clare, Octavius Leigh
Clive, Captain Percy A.
Cochrane, Hon. T. H. A. E.
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colomb, Sir John Charles Ready
Colston, Chas. Edw H. Athole
Corbett, A. Cameron (*Glasg.*)
Corbett, T. L. (*Down, North*)
Cross, Alexander (*Glasgow*)
Crossley, Rt. Hon. Sir Savile
Davenport, William Bromley
Devlin, Joseph (*Kilkenny, N.*)
Dickson, Charles Scott
Dixon-Hartland, Sir Fred Dixon
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers
Duke, Henry Edward
Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas
Fergusson, Rt Hn. Sir J. (*Man'r*
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fitzroy, Hon. Edw. Algernon
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Flower, Ernest
Forster, Henry William
Fyler, John Arthur
Gibbs, Hn. Vicary (*St. Albans*
Gordon, Hn. J. E. (*Elgin & Nairn*
Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
Goschen, Hon. Geo. Joachim
Greene, Henry D. (*Shrewsbury*)
Greene, W. Raymond- (*Cambs*
Gretton, John
Greville, Hon. Ronald
Groves, James Grimble
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Hamilton, Rt Hn Ld. G. (*Midx*
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Hatch, Ernest Frederick Geo.
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Helder, Augustus
Henderson, Sir Alexander
Hermon-Hodge, Sir Robert T.
Hickman, Sir Alfred
Hobhouse, Rt Hn H (*Somrst E*
Hoult, Joseph
Howard, Jno (*Kent, Faver'hm*
Howard, J. (*Midd., Tott'ham*
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Jebb, Sir Richard Claverhouse
Johnstone, Heywood
Law, Andrew Bonar (*Glasgow*)
Lawson, J. Grant (*Yorks., N.R.*)
Lees, Sir Elliott (*Birkenhead*)
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leveson-Gower, Frederick N. S.
Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (*Bristol, S.*
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lowe, Francis William
Lucas, Reginald J. (*Portsmouth*
Lundon, W.
Macdona, John Cumming
M'Arthur, Charles (*Liverpool*)
M'Killop, James (*Stirlingshire*)
M'Killop, W. (*Sligo, North*)
Majendie, James A. H.
Massey-Mainwaring, Hn. W. F.
Milvain, Thomas
Mitchell, Edw. (*Fermanagh, N.*
Mitchell, William (*Burnley*)
Montagu, G. (*Huntingdon*)
Montagu, Hon. J. Scott (*Hants.*)
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
Morgan, David J. (*Walth'mstow*
Morrell, George Herbert
Morton, Arthur H. Aylmer
Mowbray, Sir Robert Gray C.
Murray, Rt Hn A. Graham (*Bute*
Murray, Col. Wyndham (*Bath*)
Nicholson, William Graham
Orr-Ewing, Charles Lindsay
Palmer, Walter (*Salisbury*)
Pierpoint, Robert
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Pretyman, Ernest George
Purvis, Robert
Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
Remnant, James Farquharson
Renshaw, Sir Charles Bine
Renwick, George
Ridley, S. Forde (*Bethnal Green*)
Ritchie, Rt. Hn. C. Thomson
Robertson, Herbert (*Hackney*)
Rolleston, Sir John F. L.
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Russell, T. W.
Rutherford, W. W. (*Liverpool*)
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Shaw-Stewart, M. H. (*Renfrew*)
Smith, H. C (*North'mb. Tyneside*
Smith, James Parker (*Lanarks.*
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (*Strand*
Stanley, Lord (*Lancs.*)
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Stroyan, John
Sturt, Hn. Humphry Napier
Talbot, Lord E. (*Chichester*)
Talbot, Rt Hn. J. G. (*Oxf'd Univ.*
Taylor, Austin (*East Toxteth*)
Thorburn, Sir Walter
Tollemache, Henry James
Valentia, Viscount
Walrond, Rt. Hn Sir William H.
Whiteley, H (*Ashton-und-Lyne*
Williams, Rt Hn J Powell- (*Birm*
Willoughby de Eresby, Lord
Wilson, A. Stanley (*York, E.R.*)
Wodehouse, Rt. Hn. E. R. (*Bath*
Worsley Taylor, Henry Wilson

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Mr. Fellowes.

NOES.

Allen, Charles P. (*Glouc., Stroud*
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Barlow, John Emmott
Bayley, Thomas (*Derbyshire*)
Black, Alexander William
Bolton, Thomas Dolling
Brigg, John
Broadhurst, Henry
Brown, George M. (*Edinburgh*)
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Burt, Thomas
Cameron, Robert
Cawley, Frederick
Channing, Francis Allston
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, Alfred (*Carmarthen*)
Davies, M. Vaughan (*Cardigan*
Duncan, J. Hastings
Dunn, Sir William
Edwards, Frank
Elibank, Master of

Mr. Caldwell.

Emmott, Alfred
Evans, Samuel T. (*Glamorgan*)
Fenwick, Charles
Foster, Sir Walter (*Derby Co.*)
Fuller, J. M. F.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Hamilton, Marq. of (*Londondy*
Hardie, J. Keir (*Merthyr Tydvil*
Harwood, George
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Charles Seale-
Hope, John Deans (*Fife, West*)
Humphreys-Owen, Arthur C.
Jones, William (*Carnarvonsh*
Kearley, Hudson E.
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (*Cornwall*)
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leese, Sir Joseph F. (*Accrington*
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
M'Arthur, William (*Cornwall*)
Mansfield, Horace Rendall
Markham, Arthur Basil
Morgan, J. Lloyd (*Carmarthen*)
Newnes, Sir George
Norman, Henry
Nussey, Thomas Willans
Partington, Oswald
Philipps, John Wynford
Pirie, Duncan V.
Priestley, Arthur
Rickett, J. Compton
Roberts, John H. (*Denbighs.*)
Rose, Charles Day
Runciman, Walter
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Charles Edw. (*Stafford*)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Soares, Ernest J.
Spencer, Rt Hn. C. R (*Northants*
Taylor, Theodore C. (*Radcliffe*)
Tennant, Harold John
Thomas, Sir A. (*Glam., E.*)
Thomas, David Alfred (*Merthyr*
Tomkinson, James
Wason, E. (*Clackmannan*)
Whiteley, G. (*York, W. R.*)
Whitley, J. H. (*Halifax*)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Wilson, H. J. (*York, W. R.*)
Wilson, John (*Durham Mid.*)
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
Mr. Caldwell and Mr. Hunter Craig.

Question put.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 66, lines 19 and 20, to leave out the words 'not earlier than eight and not later than ten of the clock as the licensing Court may direct.'"—(*The Lord Advocate.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 67, line 22, to leave out the words 'such hour' and insert 'eight of the clock.'"—(*The Lord Advocate.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 67, lines 22 and 23, to leave out the words 'not earlier than eight and not later than ten of the clock as the licensing Court may direct.'"—(*The Lord Advocate.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 70, to leave out Schedule 11."—(*The Lord Advocate.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 71, column 1, line 15, to leave out the words '43 and 44 Vict., c. 20,' and insert the words '63 and 64 Vict., c. 28.'"—(*The Lord Advocate.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 72, column 3, line 11, at end, to insert the words 'Section two hundred and thirty-seven,' the words 'be intoxicated while on duty, or if,' and the word 'he' where first occurring."—(*The Lord Advocate.*)

Amendment agreed to.

*MR. A. GRAHAM MURRAY said he thought there was a general feeling in the House in favour of taking a Third Reading of the Bill that night, so that it might go to another place in time for its fair consideration.

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the Bill be read a third time."

MR. BLACK said he did not suppose that anyone wished to divide upon the Third Reading; but before that was taken he might be permitted to express the feeling on both sides of the House in regard to the great courtesy and skill with which the Lord Advocate had conducted the proceedings both in the Standing Committee and in this House—proceedings which he had enlivened with a fund of anecdote worthy of Dean Ramsey, and a humour which was supposed to be only characteristic of the Sister Isle. He wished to direct attention to the degree in which Scotch opinion had been overridden in the House. In the first place the proposal of the right hon. Member for Stirling Burghs to remit the Bill to a Committee consisting of the Scotch Members was rejected. He ventured to say that had that proposal been carried the Bill would not only have been a different but a better Bill than they now had. There were many divisions in which Scotch opinion was wholly on one side, and the Lord Advocate and the English Members on the other side. Nothing could have been more striking than the division which took place after the dinner hour, when the Lord Advocate, with the assistance of English Members, insisted on thrusting down the throats of the Scotch Members a proposal opposed almost unanimously by the Scotch Members. A great blot on the Bill was the continuance of the justices on the licensing authority. That should have been a representative body nominated by the County Council. Another matter of universal condemnation in Scotland was the retention of the Appeal Court. Could anything be more absurd than an appeal from the judgment of gentlemen who knew the whole circumstances to that of gentlemen who knew nothing about them? The right hon Gentleman seemed to think that ignorance was the true qualification for a licensing authority. He ventured to say that had the matter been left to the Scotch Members alone the appeal would be swept away. Another blemish in the Bill was the retention of the word "court" instead of "authority," which implied that the constitution of the licensing authority was altered, and that they were not allowed to exercise discretion. That was against not only Scotch opinion but against the opinion of the Prime Minister, expressed on April 8th last. On the whole, however, there was no doubt that the Bill was a great improvement on what had hitherto obtained in Scotland, and he was sure that throughout the length and breadth of Scotland an effort would be made to carry it out in such a way that it might be a real measure of temperance reform.

Mr. HUNTER CRAIG said he had been somewhat amused when the Lord Advocate characterised this Bill "as a generous attempt at temperance reform." He entirely dissented from the expression of such an opinion, and he felt certain that the Scotch people would not be at all satisfied with the measure, which might be called a Police Licensing Act, instead of "a generous attempt at temperance reform." They in Scotland who wanted local veto and popular control would never be satisfied until they got them. He believed that the Bill had been promoted in the interests of the Trade. The publicans had been far more considered in framing and carrying out the Bill than the public of Scotland. Although they were very thankful for the measure, so far as it went, it did not at all represent the views of temperance reformers in Scotland.

Mr. CALDWELL said that they could not regard the Bill as anything whatever in the nature of temperance reform. He knew of nothing in the Bill that would promote temperance more than the existing law. On the other hand, it opened the door to a great deal of abuse. The Bill had one great merit, however—it was a consolidating Bill, and that was a great gain to the community. The constitution of the Licensing Courts would in many cases be materially changed by the Bill. The measure was certainly an advance on the existing state of things, but still in some places it was regarded as of a retrograde character. At the present day, for the granting of licences, magistrates were absolutely imperious, and it was well known that in a great many boroughs the magistrates had sole control of all licences within their jurisdiction. That was taken away from them by this Bill, and they were now mixed up with the county authority. It was, therefore, a disfranchising Bill so far as many boroughs in Scotland were concerned. On that side of the House they had always gone in for popular control of the liquor traffic, and he was sorry to notice that the Bill only conceded that to a certain extent. They were, however, prepared to accept it as the best possible temperance measure they could get from the Tory Party, but the Government must understand that they accepted it only as an instalment of reform and not as a final solution of the problem.

Mr. CAMERON CORBETT (Glasgow, Tradeston) protested against the description which the last speaker had given of the Bill. Those of them who were extreme temperance men were sometimes accused of refusing to accept half a loaf, but he believed that all earnest temperance men in Scotland welcomed the Bill with a great deal of cordiality. As to grocers' vans they undoubtedly now were something like travelling public-houses, and the restrictions imposed by this Bill would go far to check the abuse of their use. He did not think they could fail to be grateful for what the Bill proposed to do in reference to clubs, for he acknowledged that the great bulk of the evil which was being done by these drinking clubs would be prevented in the future by this measure, and if the Bill did no more than that they would have every reason to be thankful for it.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read the third time, and passed.

EMPLOYMENT OF CHILDREN BILL.

As amended (by the Standing Committee), further considered—

*MR. JESSE COLLINGS (Birmingham, Bordesley) moved to omit, after "the expression 'local authority' means," the following—"In the case of a municipal borough with a population according to the census of 1901 of over 10,000, the Borough Council, and in the case of any other urban district with a population according to the census of 1901 of over 20,000, the District Council, and elsewhere the County Council," in order to insert "the council of any municipal borough or urban district or rural district."

He said that this Amendment did not in any way affect the principle of the Bill. It affected mainly, and almost wholly, small places and purely rural districts, and he firmly believed that unless it was accepted the Bill would work incalculable harm in the agricultural parts of England. The Amendment did not interfere with the Bill as it affected large towns, and if it were accepted the Bill in that respect would remain unchanged. In the course of his observations, therefore, he would confine himself to its effect on the districts he had named, and he hoped that the House would bear with him while he endeavoured to make clear what evil the Bill would work if this Amendment were not passed. He also hoped that in any discussion that might follow, the condition of things in our large towns would not be debated, because it was not affected by the Amendment. Much depended on the by-laws, and the nature of the by-laws depended on those who had the making of them, and unless great care was taken there would be considerable hardship inflicted on the poorer classes. In the Grand Committee the original form of the Bill was altered, and its administration was placed in the hands of the local authority as defined by the Education Act of last year. It was given into the hands of boroughs with over 10,000 population and of urban districts with over 20,000, while rural districts and smaller boroughs were placed in the hands of the County Councils. This was the first time in the history of legislation—with the exception of the Bill of last year—in which local authorities were not allowed to make by-laws for themselves. This was altogether contrary to the report of the Departmental Committee. The argument in favour of the clause as it stood was founded on the Education Act of last year, though there was no comparison whatever between the two. This was a measure to regulate the labour of children in rural districts, and there could not be a uniform code as the conditions varied so greatly. Under the Bill as it stood the local authorities would have to bear the expense of any inquiry, while they would not have the power to make the by-laws under which the expense would be incurred. The Departmental Committee in their Report said—

> "The main question is rather one of labour than of school attendance and that labour by-laws should be made by the municipal authority."

Again—

> "Many boroughs, including non-county boroughs, have already the power to make by-laws for good Government under local acts and power to deal with street traders."

And again—

> "Circumstances and conditions vary so widely in different occupations and different localities that it is impossible to propose a uniform code. Therefore, we recommend that the necessary regulations by by-laws for the occupation of children should be made by local authorities."

It should be borne in mind that children of fourteen and sixteen years of age did a great deal of work in these places. It could scarcely be called work, perhaps, but it was employment in which they gained a little money, and at the same time it was one in which they delighted. The Report of the Departmental Committee stated that, as far as the health of the children was concerned, the labour seemed to be the least injurious of any of the kinds coming under their notice, for it was all, or nearly all, in the open air, and mostly took place in summer time. Of course, it was necessary that the education of the children should be primarily looked after, but hon. Members must not think that there was no education except that which was got out of books. That was a great mistake. The most valuable training that was to be had was often obtained in the process of these farming occupations. He had received a large number of letters from rural districts upon that question, but he would quote only one from a clergyman which put the point very concisely:—

> "May I put a case to you. I have been a vicar and rector of two country parishes, twenty-three years in Suffolk, and twenty-one in Berkshire. Of most of that time I have taken children out of school hours and had them to work, in the house if girls, and in the garden and stable if boys. Many have thus got a technical education and been started in good places from me. If this Bill passes as it now stands this work will stop. I have a boy, now nearly twelve, who came to me eighteen months ago. He has learnt to clean shoes, knives, etc., to milk, help in stables, even to harnessing a pony, and got some knowledge of poultry-keeping, and growing cucumbers and melons in frames, and, in fact, is generally useful, and perfectly healthy. He is always at school, but I expect he gets more useful knowledge under me. He began at 1s. weekly, but now earns 3s. Why should he be deprived of this only to spend out-of-school hours in idling about and being a nuisance to the village?"

Now as to the question of bye-laws. There was great danger, if they were made by a central authority, that they would not be favourable to the occupations with which he was dealing. The object of his Amendment then was to put the administration of the Act under municipal boroughs, under urban districts, and under rural district councils. This would cover every inch of the county, and secure that the administration of each district should be by those who knew most about the district, and had its interests most at heart. It was in accordance with all precedents that the power of making by-laws under an Act of Parliament should be given to those responsible for the good government of the districts to which they referred. He would like to read a few of above a hundred boroughs which would be affected by the Amendment:—Yeovil, Hertford, Buckingham, Shaftesbury, Monmouth, Bodmin, Launceston, Tavistock, etc. All these places were to be put under the County Councils, and hon. Members well knew what jealous rivalry there already was between these bodies. On what ground was it possible to justify the dispossession of these local authorities which for ages had carried on the work. Many of the urban districts were boroughs under another name. They were endowed with powers almost equal to municipal powers, and they had within their areas great diversities of occupations. Why should they not be entrusted with the administration of this Bill? The County Councils did not want the work, indeed they would rather be without it, because they realised the difficulties which would be set up if they attempted to impose by-laws on these self-governing communities. He would like to read one very strong protest which he had read in the Press—

> "I hear that a strong recommendation has been sent to the Home Secretary on behalf of the Rural non-County and Urban District Councils in favour of Mr. Collings' Amendment for including these bodies as administrative authorities under The Employment of Children Bill. They contend that to pass them by in this matter is to impose something like an insult upon them after their historic experience of administration. They submit also that the County Councils who are to administer rural districts are entirely unfitted for the purpose, since they cannot be properly acquainted with local circumstances."

In the evidence given before the Departmental Committee they would find the hon. Member for Tavistock said he was in favour of Rural District Councils having this jurisdiction, and another witness said he did not believe the borough to which he referred would ever consent to take by-laws from the County Council. He believed there would be perpetual friction in the administration of the Bill unless his Amendment was accepted. Take Devon as an example of how the localities would be affected by this Bill. There were in it twenty-four urban districts—some agricultural and some watering-places, besides seven rural districts, containing about 400 parishes principally occupied in agriculture. How was it possible for the County Council to know what was best for such an infinite variety of requirements as existed in that county? Whatever the use of those regulations might be in large towns, he contended that they were absolutely unnecessary, even foolish, when applied to villages and country places. Hon. Members talked about trading at night; but the children in country districts were in bed at eight o'clock. If any by-laws were to apply, his contention was that they should be made by the authority which knew the conditions under which local occupations were carried on. There was one clause which said that no child under the age of fourteen——

MR. TENNANT (Berwickshire) said he wished to ask if the right hon. Gentleman was entitled in his Amendment to discuss all the clauses in the Bill.

MR. SPEAKER: I think the right hon. Gentleman must confine himself to the subject of his Amendment, which is simply what should be the authority. Some of the observations of the right hon. Gentleman appear to me to be irrelevant to the Amendment.

*MR. JESSE COLLINGS said he was endeavouring to explain that the requirements were such as could not be administered by a central authority, but by the authority for the locality where the occupations were carried on. For instance, it was proposed that no child under fourteen should begin work before 6 a.m., but that the local authority should have power to alter that. At harvest time or at fruit-picking, say in Devonshire, a farmer would have to send to Exeter to get the by-law temporarily altered, in order to meet the requirements of the locality. The fact was that unless the Amendment was accepted it would make the employment of children in such districts almost impossible, because it had to be considered in connection with the severe penalties that might be imposed; and he ventured to state that in the face of such penalties there would be no child employment at all. The Report of the Committee was all in favour of the principle of the Amendment. Not only that, but there was the discredit that would otherwise be brought on the local authorities, of whom they prided, and rightly prided, themselves. He would give another reason. If the Amendment were not accepted, then other Acts, such as the Cruelty to Children Act, which was now administered by the three authorities named in the Amendment, would be taken out of their hands and placed in the hands of the County Council. In his opinion, unless the Amendment were accepted, discredit would be cast on the local authorities. He did not know what county Members would think when the local authorities were deprived of the rights and privileges they had exercised almost from time immemorial. He hoped his right hon. friend in charge of the Bill would exercise some consideration. There were many hon. Members on both sides of the House who saw the difficulties that would arise if the clause remained as it was. In his opinion, the Bill would create evil, and the only way to reduce it to a minimum in the country districts was to place the administration of the Act in the hands of the authorities who knew the requirements of the people for whose good government they were responsible. He begged to move.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 5, line 11, to leave out from the word 'means,' to the end of line 17, and insert the words 'the council of any municipal borough, or urban district, or rural district.'"—(*Mr. Jesse Collings.*)

Question proposed, "That the words 'in case of' stand part of the Bill."

*THE UNDER SECRETARY TO THE HOME OFFICE (Mr. COCHRANE, Ayrshire, N.) said he hoped he might be allowed to reply to the speech of his right hon. friend in the hope of getting the Bill through. He was sure that everyone sympathised with his right hon. friend in his anxiety to safeguard the interests of the rural population, in which he took so much interest; but on this occasion he thought his right hon. friend had been led a little too far. What was the history of the Amendment introduced upstairs? His right hon. friend must remember the Bill, as it was originally drafted in 1901, when his right hon. friend was more or less responsible.

*MR. JESSE COLLINGS said he was not responsible?

*MR. COCHRANE said he was sorry his right hon. friend had so far neglected his duty. The Bill was drafted in 1901 and the authorities then introduced were all the Borough and County Councils. Then the Education Act was passed; and it became apparent that it was in every way desirable not to have conflicting authorities; and a very slight modification of the original proposal met the unanimous view of the Committee upstairs.

*MR. JESSE COLLINGS said he protested against the alteration at the time.

*MR. COCHRANE said it was agreed to delay the discussion until the definition clause, but his right hon. friend's enthusiasm was so faint that he did not submit his Amendment when the definition clause was reached. He did not desire to say anything of an argumentative nature. The Committee adopted the words of the Education Act which somewhat reduced the number of Borough Councils by imposing a limit of 10,000 population. As introduced, the Bill conferred powers on sixty-three County Councils, and 319 Borough Councils. The Committee cut out 110 Borough Councils and added sixty-two Urban District Councils of over 20,000 population. That was undoubtedly a very great improvement. If they were to adopt the suggestion of his right hon. friend they would have to add over 700 Urban District Councils and 661 Rural District Councils, each of which would have the power to make by-laws which should have to be referred to the Home Secretary for his approval. He would ask his right hon. friend really to consider what would be the effect on the Home Office. There might be as many as 1,792 different sets of by-laws throughout the country; and what chaos would not that occasion. He would appeal to his right hon. friend not to press the matter further. He hoped he had sufficiently placed the arguments before the House, and that they would now be able to get on with the Bill.

SIR EDWARD STRACHEY (Somersetshire, S.) said he did not think that the Under Secretary had by attacking his right hon. friend [Mr. COCHRANE dissented] in any way assisted the passing of the Bill, because undoubtedly his right hon. friend had taken a great interest in the matter and was fully alive to its importance. There was a strong feeling, at any rate in the West of England, that the Government were attempting to crush out the smaller municipalities. He was as anxious as the Under Secretary to see the Bill pass, but if the hon. Gentleman had accepted an Amendment to enable the County Councils to delegate their authority to smaller country authorities and to boroughs this Amendment would not have been moved. The hon. Gentleman himself admitted that the original Bill did include municipal boroughs, which showed that the Government of that day, with the benefit of the assistance of the right hon. Gentleman the Member for the Bordesley Division, recognised that these small municipalities ought to be treated as living entities who would look after the interests of their own people. All that was now changed. They had passed the Education Act, and they were asked to take that as an admirable authority. But he did not think they ought to copy that Act as regarded local areas and local authorities. But would the education authority use their officers to put this Act into force. It would be an extraordinary thing if the officers of the education authority were to be called in to put in force these by-laws. The Home Office already had to consider by-laws for various matters, and he believed the County Councils would much prefer that the small municipalities and Urban and Rural District Councils should themselves have the power of making these by-laws. If the County Councils had to make them it would lead to much trouble and friction, as the Act would certainly not work smoothly if municipalities were to have forced upon them by-laws which they had had no hand in making. There could be no danger in allowing these local bodies to frame their own by-laws, because no by-law could come into force until the Home Office had approved of it. Moreover, England was treated unfairly in this matter as compared with Scotland. Every small School Board in Scotland was to be entrusted with a power that was denied to municipalities in England, as also were boroughs of 7,000 inhabitants. If for no other reason than that he would support the Amendment.

MR. BROADHURST (Leicester) appealed to the House to come to a decision on the Amendment, the principle of which had been debated at considerable length in the Committee upstairs. He was in favour in the abstract of giving every

Council the power to make these by-laws, as he was no believer in the justice at all times of large majorities. Large numbers were as often in the wrong as small minorities, and small Councils, in his opinion, were as capable as large Councils. But unless more rapid progress were made, the passage of the Bill would be endangered. He wished the Urban and District Councils to have this power, but rather than insist on that and lose the Bill he would take the measure as it stood.

Question put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 190 ; Noes, (Division List No. 187.)

AYES.

Allen, Charles P. (*Glouc., Stroud*
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Anstruther, H. T.
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Arrol, Sir William
Asher, Alexander
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Aubrey-Fletcher, Rt. Hn. Sir H.
Bailey, James (*Walworth*)
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (*Manch'r*
Balfour, Rt. Hn. G. W. (*Leeds*
Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.
Bignold, Arthur
Black, Alexander William
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Brigg, John
Broadhurst, Henry
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Butcher, John George
Caldwell, James
Causton, Richard Knight
Cavendish, V. C. W. (*Derbyshire*
Cawley, Frederick
Cayzer, Sir Charles William
Cecil, Evelyn (*Aston Manor*)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (*Greenwich*
Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J. (*Birm*
Chamberlain, Rt Hn. J. A (*Worc*
Channing, Francis Allston
Charrington, Spencer
Clive, Captain Percy A.
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Corbett, A. Cameron (*Glasg.*)
Corbett, T. L. (*Down, North*)
Craig, Robert Hunter (*Lanark.*
Cremer, William Randal
Crossley, Rt. Hon. Sir Savile
Davenport, William Bromley
Davies, M. Vaughan- (*Cardign*
Denny, Colonel
Dickson, Charles Scott
Dimsdale, Rt. Hn. Sir Joseph C.
Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers
Dyke, Rt. Hon. Sir Wm. Hart
Edwards, Frank
Elibank, Master of
Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas
Evans, Sir F. H. (*Maidstone*)
Evans, Samuel T. (*Glamorgan*)
Fergusson, Rt. Hn Sir J. (*Manc'r*
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Firbank, Sir Joseph Thomas
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Forster, Henry William
Fyler, John Arthur
Galloway, William Johnson
Garfit, William
Gibbs, Hn A. G. H (*City of Lond*
Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herbert J.
Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir J. Eldon
Goschen, Hon. George Joachim
Gray, Ernest (*West Ham*)
Greene, W. Raymond (*Cambs*
Gretton, John
Greville, Hon. Ronald
Grey, Rt. Hn. Sir E. (*Berwick*
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Guthrie, Walter Murray
Hamilton, Marq. of (*Londondy*
Hamilton, Rt Hn Lord G (*Midd'x*
Hardie, J. Keir (*Merthyr Tyd*
Hardy, Laurence (*Kent, Ashfd*
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Harmsworth, R. Leicester
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Charles Seale-
Heath, Arthur Howard (*Hanley*
Hermon-Hodge, Sir Robert T.
Hobhouse, Rt Hn H (*Somrst E*
Holland, Sir William Henry
Houldsworth, Sir Wm. Henry
Hutchinson, Dr. Charles Fredk.
Jebb, Sir Richard Claverhouse
Joyce, Michael
Knowles, Lees
Langley, Batty
Law, Andrew Bonar (*Glasgow*
Lawrence, Wm. F. (*Liverpool*
Lawson, J. Grant (*Yorks., N.R.*)
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (*Cornwall*)
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Lees, Sir Elliott (*Birkenhead*)
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leveson-Gower, Fredk. N. S.
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (*Bristol, S.*
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lowe, Francis William
Lowther, C. (*Cumb., Eskdale*)
Lucas, Col. Francis (*Lowestoft*)
Lucas, Reg'ld J. (*Portsmouth*)
Macdona, John Cumming
Maconochie, A. W.
M'Arthur, Charles, (*Liverpool*)
M'Arthur, William (*Cornwall*)
M'Killop, James (*Stirlingshire*
Majendie, James A. H.
Mansfield, Horace Rendall
Martin, Richard Biddulph
Massey-Mainwaring, Hn. W. F.
Mitchell, Edw. (*Fermanagh, N.*
Montagu, G. (*Huntingdon*)
Montagu, Hn. J. Scott (*Hants*
Morrell, George Herbert
Morton, Arthur H. Aylmer
Mowbray, Sir Robert Gray C.
Murray, Rt Hn A. Graham (*Bute*
Murray, Charles J. (*Coventry*)
Murray, Col. Wyndham (*Bath*)
Nussey, Thomas Willans
Orr-Ewing, Charles Lindsay
Palmer, Walter (*Salisbury*)
Partington, Oswald
Percy, Earl
Pierpoint, Robert
Pirie, Duncan V.
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Pretyman, Ernest George
Purvis, Robert
Randles, John S.
Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
Reid, James (*Greenock*)
Renshaw, Sir Charles Bine
Renwick, George
Ridley, S. F. (*Bethnal Green*)
Ritchie, Rt. Hn. Chas. Thomson
Roberts, Samuel (*Sheffield*)
Robertson, Herbert (*Hackney*)
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rolleston, Sir John F. L.
Ropner, Colonel Sir Robert
Rose, Charles Day
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Runciman, Walter
Russell, T. W.
Rutherford, W. W. (*Liverpool*
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford
Sadler, Col. Samuel Alexander
Samuel, Herbert L. (*Cleveland*)
Seely, Maj. J. E. B. (*Isle of Wight*
Shackleton, David James
Sinclair, John (*Forfarshire*)
Sinclair, Louis (*Romford*)
Smith, H. C (*North'mb. Tyneside*
Smith, James Parker (*Lanarks*
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (*Strand*
Soares, Ernest J.
Spencer, Rt. Hn. C R (*Northants*
Stanley, Lord (*Lancs.*)
Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
Talbot, Lord E. (*Chichester*)
Talbot, Rt. Hn J. G. (*Oxf'd Univ*
Taylor, Austin (*East Toxteth*)
Taylor, Theo. C. (*Radcliffe*)
Tennant, Harold John
Thomas, F. Freeman (*Hastings*)
Thomson, F. W. (*York, W. R.*)
Tomlinson, Sir Wm. Edw. M.
Toulmin, George
Valentia, Viscount
Vincent, Sir Edgar (*Exeter*)

Walrond, Rt. Hon. Sir W. H.
Weir, James Galloway
Whiteley, H. (*Ashton-un.-Lyne*
Whitley, J. H. (*Halifax*)
Willoughby de Eresby, Lord
Wilson, A. S. (*York, E. R.*)
Wilson, John (*Durham, Mid*)
Wilson, John (*Glasgow*)
Wilson-Todd, W. H. (*Yorks.*)
Wortley, Rt. Hn. C.B. Stuart
Wrightson, Sir Thomas
Wylie, Alexander
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Mr. Fellowes.

NOES.

Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Balfour, Kenneth R. (*Christch.*
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Bayley, Thomas (*Derbyshire*)
Bond, Edward
Chapman, Edward
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, Alfred (*Carmarthen*)
Fitzroy, Hon. Edw. Algernon
Flower, Ernest
Greene, Henry D. (*Shrewsbury*
Horniman, Frederick John
Howard, John (*Kent, Faversh'm*
Howard, J. (*Midd., Tottenham*
Labouchere, Henry
Lambert, George
Levy, Maurice
Lough, Thomas
M'Laren, Sir Charles Benj.
Markham, Arthur Basil
Morgan, D. J. (*Walthamstow*)
Norman, Henry
Philipps, John Wynford
Priestley, Arthur
Remnant, Jas. Farquharson
Rickett, J. Compton
Rigg, Richard
Roberts, John H. (*Denbighs.*)
Shaw, Charles Edw. (*Stafford*)
Spear, John Ward
Thomas, David A. (*Merthyr*)
Webb, Colonel William George
Williams, O. (*Merioneth*)
Worsley-Taylor, Hry. Wilson

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Jesse Collings and Sir Edward Strachey.

MR. ALBAN GIBBS (London) said the Amendment he desired to move provided that the City of London should retain powers which it already possessed under enactments to be repealed by this Bill. He believed it was purely by accident the provision had been omitted, and without detaining the House he would simply move.

Amendment proposed to the Bill—

"In page 5, line 11, at end, to insert the words, 'the City of London, the Mayor, Aldermen, and Commons of that City in Common Council assembled, in the case of.'"—(*Mr. Alban Gibbs.*)

Amendment agreed to.

And, it being Midnight, further consideration of the Bill, as amended (in the Standing Committee), stood adjourned.

Bill, as amended (in the Standing Committee), to be further considered upon Friday.

PATENT OFFICE EXTENSION (EXPENSES.)

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

Resolved, That it is expedient to authorise the payment, out of moneys to be provided by Parliament, of all Expenses incurred by the Commissioners of Works under any Act of the present session for the acquisition of land for the further Extension of the Patent Office, and for purposes connected therewith.—(*Mr. Elliot.*)

Resolution to be reported this day.

MILITARY WORKS (CONSOLIDATED FUND.)

Resolution reported, "That it is expedient to make further provisions for defraying the expenses of certain Military Works and other Military Services, and to authorise the issue out of the Consolidated Fund of such sums, not exceeding £5,000,000, as may be required for those purposes, and to make provision for raising, in the manner provided by Section 2 of The Military Works Act, 1897, the sums so issued by terminable annuities for a period not exceeding thirty years from the date of borrowing."

Resolution agreed to.

Bill ordered to be brought in by Mr. Secretary Brodrick, Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer, and Lord Stanley.

MILITARY WORKS BILL.

"To make further provision for defraying the Expenses of certain Military Works and other Military Services," presented accordingly, and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Friday, and to be printed. [Bill 292.]

TRADE MARKS (COTTON WARES) BILL.

Order for Second Reading read, and discharged:—Bill withdrawn.

Adjourned at ten minutes after Twelve o'clock.

[APPENDICES.

APPENDIX I.

PUBLIC BILLS

DEALT WITH IN VOLUME CXXV.

Those marked thus * are Government Bills. The figures in parentheses in the last column refer to the page in this volume. "[H.L.]" following title indicates that the Bill originated in the Lords.

(A.) HOUSE OF LORDS.

Title of Bill.	Brought in by	Progress.
*Board of Agriculture and Fisheries [H.L.]	*Earl of Onslow*	Read 3^a and passed 9 July (128)
*Borough Funds	*Lord Kenyon*	Read 3^a and passed 10 July (272)
*Contracts (India Office)	*Earl of Hardwicke*	Royal Assent 21 July (1245)
*County Councils (Bill in Parliament)	*Lord Kenyon*	Royal Assent 21 July (1245)
County Courts Jurisdiction Extension		Read 2^a 16 July (824)
Education (Borrowing)		Royal Assent 21 July (1245)
Elementary Education Amendment		Report 14 July (558) Read 3^a and passed 16 July (838) Royal Assent 21 July (1245)
Guinea Postal Orders		Royal Assent 21 July (1245)
Incest	*Earl of Donoughmore*	Second Reading (defeated) 16 July (820)
Licensing Acts Amendment	*Earl of Wemyss*	Bill withdrawn 14 July (519)
*Light Railways	*Lord Wolverton*	Read 1^a 21 July (1249)
*Local Government (Transfer of Powers)	*Lord Kenyon*	Report 9 July (131)
Lunacy Acts (Amendment) London [H.L.]	*Earl Carrington*	Committee 9 July (133) Report 14 July (558) Read 3^a and passed 16 July (838)
*Marine Store Dealers (Ireland)	*Earl of Denbigh*	Read 2^a 14 July (557)
*Metropolitan Streets	*Lord Belper*	Read 1^a 20 July (1129) Read 2^a 21 July (1292)

(A.) HOUSE OF LORDS—*continued.*

Title of Bill.	Brought in by	Progress.
Military Lands	*Lord Ludlow*	Read 2^a 21 July (1249)
*Motor-Cars [H.L.]	*Lord Balfour of Burleigh*	Read 2^a 14 July (523) Committee 17th July (976) Committee 21st July (1256)
Outdoor Relief (Pensioners)	*Marquess of Granby*	Second Reading (defeated) 16th July (834)
Pistols	*Earl of Donoughmore*	Read 2^a 9th July (129) Committee 10th July (272) Report 16th July (838) Bill withdrawn 17th July (1020)
*Public Offices (Dublin)	*Earl of Denbigh*	Read 1^a 9th July (128) Read 2^a 17th July (1020)

(B.) HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Title of Bill.	Brought in by	Progress.
Bills of Exchange	*Sir Wm. Holland*	Read 1^o 21st July (1321)
*Contracts (India Office)	*Lord George Hamilton*	Royal Assent 21st July (1245)
*County Councils (Bills in Parliament)	*Mr. Walter Long*	Royal Assent 21st July (1245)
*Education (Borrowing)	*Mr. Walter Long*	Royal Assent 21st July (1245)
Elementary Education Amendment	*Mr. Heywood Johnstone*	Royal Assent 21st July (1245)
*Employment of Children	*Mr. Akers Douglas*	Consideration 22nd July (1549)
*Expiring Law Continuance	*Mr. Arthur Elliot*	Read 1^o 15th July (710)
Guinea Postal Orders	*Mr. Henniker-Heaton*	Royal Assent 21st July (1245)
*Irish Land	*Mr. Wyndham*	Committee 8th July (35) (92) Report 17th July (1029) Read 3^o passed 21st July (1322)
*Licensing Acts (Scotland) Consolidation and Amendment	*Mr. A. Graham Murray*	Report 13th July (417) (481) Report 21st July (1399) Report, read 3^o passed 22nd July (1507) (1529)
*London Education	*Sir Wm. Anson*	Report 14th July (587) (650) Report 15th July (713) (771) Read 3^o passed 22nd July (1451)
*London School Board (Hildrop Road Site)	*Sir Wm. Anson*	Read 1^o 9th July (165)

Title of Bill.	Brought in by	Progress.
Marriage with Foreigners	*Mr. Macdona*	Read 1° 9th July (165)
*Metropolitan Streets	*Mr. Akers Douglas*	Committee 8th July (120) Committee 17th July (1087)
*Military Works	*Mr. Brodrick*	Read 1° 22nd July (1560)
Mortgage of Premises	*Sir Wm. Holland*	Read 1° 21st July (1321)
*Naval Works	*Mr. Pretyman*	Read 2° 11th July (311)
*Naval Works (Portsmouth Barracks Site)	*Mr. Pretyman*	Read 1° 14th July (587)
Parliamentary and Electorial Reform	*Mr. Keir Hardie*	Read 1° 21st July (1321)
*Patriotic Fund	*Mr. Pretyman*	Read 1° 20th July (1163)
*Statute Law Revision (Scotland) [H.L.]	*Mr. Graham Murray*	Read 1° 17th July (1089)
Trade Marks (Cotton Wares)	*Sir Wm. Houldsworth*	Bill withdrawn 22nd July (1500)
Tuberculosis (Animals) Compensation	*Mr. Ernest Gray*	Read 1° 15th July (816)

APPENDIX II.

HOUSE OF COMMONS, SESSION 1903.

LIST OF RULES, ORDERS, &c., which have been presented during the Session, and are required by Statute to lie for an appointed number of Days upon the Table of the House.

[*In continuation of List given in previous volume.*]

Title of Paper.	Date from which the Period runs.	Period to lie upon the Table.
Inebriate Reformatories (Regulations),—Copy of Regulations made with the approval of the Secretary of State for the Home Department for the management and discipline of the certified Inebriate Reformatories at Lewes and Chesterfield [61 and 62 Vic., c. 60, s. 21 (1)]	9 July	4 weeks (whilst the House is sitting)
Inebriate Reformatories (Regulations),—Copy of amended Regulations made with the approval of the Secretary of State for the Home Department for the management and discipline of the certified Inebriate Reformatories at Brentry and Horfield [61 and 62 Vic., c. 60, s. 21 (1)]	9 July	4 weeks (whilst the House is sitting)
Intermediate Education (Ireland),—Copy of Rules made by the Intermediate Education Board for Ireland for the Examination in Music dated 26th June 1903 [41 and 42 Vic., c. 66, s. 6]	10 July	40 days
Public Records (Comptroller and Auditor General),—Copy of Second Schedule containing a List and Particulars of Classes of Documents which have been removed from the Office of the Comptroller and Auditor General, and deposited in the Public Record Office, but are not considered of sufficient public value to justify their preservation therein [40 and 41 Vic., c. 55, s. 1]	10 July	4 weeks
Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890,—Copy of Regulations made by the Local Government Board for Ireland as to Issue of Stock by Urban Authorities [53 and 54 Vic., c. 59, s. 52 (3)]	15 July	30 days
Factory and Workshop Acts (Special Exceptions—Meal Hours in Iron and Steel Foundries in Scotland),—Copy of Order, dated 14th July 1903, made by the Secretary of State for the Home Department in pursuance of Section 40 (4) of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, extending the Special Exceptions as to Meal Hours to male young persons employed in Iron and Steel Foundries in Scotland [1 Edw. VII., c. 22, s. 126 (3)]	16 July	40 days
Public Records (Post Office),—Copy of Fourth Schedule containing a List and Particulars of Classes of Documents existing or accruing in the Office of His Majesty's Postmaster General which are not considered of sufficient public value to justify their preservation in the Public Record Office [40 and 41 Vic., c. 55, s. 1]	17 July	4 weeks

INDEX

TO THE

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

[AUTHORISED EDITION].

EIGHTH VOLUME OF SESSION 1903.

JULY 8—*JULY* 22.

EXPLANATION OF ARRANGEMENT AND ABBREVIATIONS.

Bills: Read First, Second, or Third Time = 1R., 2R., 3R. [*c.*] = Commons. [*l.*] = Lords. *Amendt.* = Amendment. *Os.* = Observations. *Qs.* = Questions. *As.* = Answers. *Com.* = Committee. *Con.* = Consideration. Where in the Index * is added with Reading of a Bill, or a Vote in Committee of Supply, it indicates that no Debate took place on that Stage of the Bill, or on that Vote. Subjects discussed in Committee of Supply are entered under their headings, and also under Members' Names, without reference to the actual Vote before the Committee.

Aberdeen

Fish, destruction of—Amount destroyed in Scotland during 1902.
Q. Mr. Pirie; *A.* Mr. B. Law, *July 8*, 17.

Post Office Employees—Leave of Absence to attend Volunteer Camp, Refused to—Granting Leave of Absence proposed.
Q. Mr. Crombie; *A.* Mr. Austen Chamberlain, *July 15*, 694.

Aberdeen Corporation Tramways Order Confirmation Bill

l. 1R.* *July 9*, 126.
Rep.* *July 9*, 126.
3R.* *July 21*, 1248.

Aberdeen, Earl of

Motor-Cars Bill (*Committee*), *July 21*, 1291.

Abraham, Mr. W. [Cork Co., N.]

Fitzgerald, Mrs., Alleged Assault on, Nature of Offence—Inquiry into Case proposed, *July 16*, 842.

Africa

Memorandum Showing Position of Four African Protectorates Administered by Foreign Office—Copy Presented, *July 22*, 1430.

Africa, Central

British Protectorate.

Chiromo and Blantyre Railway, Construction of Date of Commencement, Length of Line, Cost, etc.
Q. Mr. Weir; *A.* Lord Cranborne, *July 16*, 842.

Africa, Central—*cont.*

British Protectorate—*cont.*

Grant-in-Aid, 1902-1903—Amount of.
Q. Mr. J. Ellis; *A.* Lord Cranborne, *July 16*, 843.

Trade of—Value of Imports and Exports for 1903.
Q. Mr. J. Ellis; *A.* Lord Cranborne, *July 16*, 843.

Preservation of Wild Animals in—Carrying out of terms of Convention—Cooperation with other Governments.
Q. Viscount Sidmouth; *A.* Marquess of Lansdowne, *July 13*, 376.

Africa, East

British Protectorate.

British Steamships Trading with East African Protectorate — Recommendation of H.M. Commissioner with regard to Subsidisation of.
Q. Mr. Orr-Ewing; *A.* Mr. Ritchie, *July 20*, 1135.

Grant-in-Aid, 1902–1903, Amount of.
Q. Mr. J. Ellis; *A.* Lord Cranborne, *July 16*, 843.

Report on Slavery and Free Labour Presented, *July 16*, 819; *July 17*, 1023.

Trade of—Value of Imports and Exports for 1893.
Q. Mr. J. Ellis; *A.* Lord Cranborne, *July 16*, 843.

Africa, South

British Indian Subjects in South African Colonies, Treatment of—Lord Milner's Despatch relative to.
Q. Sir M. Bhownaggree; *A.* Mr. J. Chamberlain, *July 22*, 1441.

Native Labour, Commission of Inquiry into — Representation of Interests other than Mining, proposed.
Q. Sir C. Dilke; *A.* Mr. J. Chamberlain, *July 21*, 1309.

Railway Construction—Restrictions as to Employment of Native Labour in Conditions of Contract—Reason for Restrictions.
Q. Sir C. Dilke; *A.* Mr. J. Chamberlain, *July 21*, 1311.

Agnew, Sir Andrew [Edinburgh, S.]

Licensing Acts (Scotland) Consolidation and Amendment Bill, *July 22*, 1517, 1525, 1537.

Public Holidays—Allowances to Officials on Piece-work, Granting of, proposed, *July 14*, 566.

Agricultural Labourers

Wages of—During last fifty years. Official information with regard to.
Q. Mr. D. A. Thomas; *A.* Mr. A. Fellowes, *July 15*, 691.

Agriculture, Board of

President—*The Earl of Onslow.*

Agriculture

Corn—Proposed increase in price of, Inclusion within scope of Fiscal Inquiry of, Question of effect upon British Agriculture of increased prices.
Q. Mr. Soares; *A.* Mr. A. J. Balfour, *July 8*, 21.

Agriculture and Technical Instruction Department, Ireland

Grants, Return of Grants made, proposed.
Q. Mr. T. M. Healy; *A.* Mr. Atkinson, *July 21*, 1303.

Staff of Board, Remuneration of.
Q. Mr. MacVeagh; *A.* Mr. Wyndham, *July 9*, 144.

Tobacco-growing in Ireland.
Os. Mr. W. Redmond, *July 20*, 1214; Sir F. Wills, *July 20*, 1217; Mr. Ritchie, *July 20*, 1218; Mr. Field, *July 20*, 1218.

Alexandra Park and Palace Bill

c. Rep.* *July 10*, 303.
3R.* *July 15*, 685.
l. 1R.* *July 16*, 818.

Allotments

Scotland—Return Presented, *July 15*, 686.

Alverstone, Lord [*Lord Chief Justice*]

County Courts Jurisdiction Extension Bill, *July 16*, 829.

Ambrose, Dr. R. [Mayo, W.]

Innishlyre Harbour — Consultation with Westport and Harbour Commissioners as to Site of New Harbour, Resolution of Commissioners, *July 16*, 868.

Mayo Piers and Harbours, Condition of—Report of County Surveyor on, Carry-out of improvements recommended, *July 8*, 27; *July 14*, 580.

Anson, Sir W.—*Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Education* [Oxford University]

Beaumaris County School, Financial Difficulties of—No remedy for case till Part II. of the Education Act, 1902, has come into force, *July 14*, 568.

Cambridge Day Training College—Payment of increased grants to Students of College who are Members of the University Colleges, *July 8*, 5.

Company Schools, grants to, *July 9*, 205.

County Councils and Voluntary Schools —Resolution of County Councils to contribute nothing but Government Grants to the Maintenance of the Voluntary Schools contrary to Regulations of the Act of, 1902, *July 8*, 5.

Education Act, Working of—Control of local Authorities' Scheme of Councils —Constitution of the Education Committee—Delegation of Powers under the Act—Tripartite arrangement of Board—Arrangements for Control of Secondary Education, Technological Department, Evening Classes—Inspectorate of Schools—Expenditure on Secondary Education and on Elementary Education—Training Colleges for Teachers — Physical Condition of School Children, *July 9*, 165, 240.

Education Board.

Assent to Arrangements Contravening their Rules given by—Question of Ventilation—Inspection of Schools—Physical Condition of School Children—Training of Teachers —Number of Children in Classes — By - law concerning Religious Instruction—Control of Deaf and Blind Schools—Women on Education Committees — Answers to Questions and Criticisms, *July 9*, 242, 257, 261, 263, 265.

Intelligence Department—Resignation of Mr. Sadler, *July 9*, 257.

Llangollen School Board, alleged Preferential Treatment of Schools, *July 22*, 1438.

London Education—Election of new Authority—Arrangements with regard to, *July 13*, 393.

[*cont.*

Anson, Sir W.—*cont.*
Education Board—*cont.*
London Education Bill, *July 14*, 595, 601, 619, 620, 627, 640, 647, 649, 650, 655, 660, 668, 675, 680; *July 15*, 715, 718, 724, 725, 726, 731, 732, 733, 734, 737, 740, 747, 756, 757, 759, 761, 766, 768, 775, 792, 793, 794, 804, 808, 814; *July 22*, 1489.
Medical Examination of School Children—Powers with regard to, in hands of Local Education Authorities, *July 13*, 387.
Schools.
Accommodation—Schools above Ordinary Limit of, Places at which Sanctioned, Numbers of scholars, Reason for which sanction given, *July 13*, 393.
Religious Instruction in.
By-law with reference to, *July 22*, 1437.
Times for religious instruction as specified in Education Acts—Powers of local authorities with regard to time of religious instruction, *July 14*, 579.
Rural Schools Curriculum—Drawing as a School-subject—Regulations with regard to, *July 22*, 1448.
Size of— No prescribed limit of size for, Recommendation in Buildings Rules with regard to limit, Schools sanctioned to exceed prescribed limit, *July 9*, 140.
University Hostels—Students in, Grants to, Declaration of First Lord of the Treasury with regard to giving effect to by Board of Education, *July 8*, 4.

Appeal Courts
see Licensing Acts (Scotland) Consolidation and Amendment Bill.

Ardagh
St, Mel's Cathedral, State of Ruins—Steps to be taken to Preserve Ancient Ruins.
Q. Mr. J. P. Farrell; *A.* Mr. Elliot, *July 8*, 10.

Army
Secretary of State—Rt. Hon. St. John Brodrick.
Under Secretary—Earl of Hardwicke.
Financial Secretary—Lord Stanley.
Army Corps — First Army Corps, 3rd Division, Formation of, strength, etc., Fifth and Sixth Corps, formation of.
Q. Mr. Pirie; *A.* Mr. Brodrick, *July 13*, 399.
Cape Ragging Case—Appearance of two Officers under constructive arrest, prior to holding of Court-Martial, at Ascot Races, Names of Officers, Action of War Office with regard to breach of promise.
Qs. Mr. S. MacNeill; *As.* Mr. Brodrick, *July 16*, 859.

Army—*cont.*
Contracts.
Dublin Master Tailors' Association—Complaint from, with regard to new arrangement for sending in Estimates.
Q. Mr. Lundon; *A.* Mr. Brodrick, *July 13*, 400.
Fair Wage Resolution—Alleged Infringement of by Messrs. Francis & Son, of Deptford.
Q. Captain Norton; *A.* Mr. Brodrick, *July 21*, 1305.
Expenditure—Excesses, Statement of, Copy presented, *July 14*, 564.
Foot Guards—Actual Strength and Authorised Establishment.
Q. Mr. K. Balfour; *A.* Mr. Brodrick, *July 20*, 1139.
Guns—Quick-firing Gun for issue to Royal Horse and Field Artillery—Decision as to pattern, date of commencing manufacture, etc.
Q. Major Seely; *A.* Lord Stanley, *July 14*, 575.
Infantry Soldiers of the Line—Average cost of.
Q. Colonel Long; *A.* Mr. Brodrick, *July 20*, 1138.
Militia—Appointments from, New Regulations with regard to, Nature of Entrance Examination, etc.
Q. Mr. S. Evans; *A.* Mr. Brodrick, *July 22*, 1439.
Officers.
Majors serving away from their Regiments—Number of.
Q. Mr. Pirie; *A.* Mr. Brodrick, *July 13*, 396.
Married Non-Commissioned Officers and Officers detached from their Regiments—Refusal of option of money in lieu of Rations to, Inquiry proposed.
Q. Mr. Field; *A.* Lord Stanley, *July 16*, 856.
Retired Officers.
Declaration required from Officer on retired pay to the effect that he holds no position of profit, previous to receiving allowance—Date of order enforcing declaration, abolition of proposed.
Q. Mr. H. Heaton; *A.* Lord Stanley, *July 14*, 574.
Pension, Increase of, for those re-employed during South African War.
Q. Mr. Pirie; *A.* Mr. Brodrick, *July 22*, 1439.
Royal Toast, Toast drunk in water instead of Wine, King's statement with regard to, Bringing statement to notice of Officers in Command, proposed.
Q. Mr. Broadhurst; *A.* Mr. Brodrick, *July 22*, 1440.

[*cont.*

Army—*cont.*

Officers—*cont.*

Retired Officers—*cont.*

Staff Officers, Army Regulations with regard to Regimental Duty—Disregard of.
Q. Mr. Pirie ; *A.* Mr. Brodrick, *July 13*, 399.

Pensions.

Devine, John, late 2nd Dragoon Guards, Case of, Application for Pension refused.
Q. Sir F. Rasch ; *A.* Lord Stanley, *July 20*, 1141.

Griffin, James, late of Royal Garrison Regiment, Granting pension to, proposed.
Q. Mr. Joyce ; *A.* Lord Stanley, *July 8*, 13.

Rations.

Pretoria, Condemned rations at.

Authority responsible for passing Contracts.
Q. Mr. Dillon ; *A.* Lord Stanley, *July 14*, 574.

Board of Officers, assembled to Report on, Proceedings of, Presented, *July 9*, 128.

Report of — Carrying out recommendations of, with regard to recovery of cost from Contractors.
Q. Mr. K. Hardie ; *A.* Lord Stanley, *July 14*, 572.

Firms having supplied these rations, if rations supplied by them had been condemned on previous occasions since 1899.

Names of firms, quantities condemned, etc.
Q. Mr. K. Hardie ; *A.* Lord Stanley, *July 16*, 862.

Tinned Rations, Cause of Damage—Periodical Examination of Ration in future.
Q. Mr. C. Wason ; *A.* Lord Stanley, *July 14*, 572.

see also War Office.

Recruits, Physical Unfitness of—Memorandum of Director-General Presented, *July 16*, 819, 840.

Reserve, Regulations relating to, Presented, *July 20*, 1094, 1131.

Scots Fusiliers, 2nd Battalion — South African War, Medals not yet distributed to—Cause of Delay, etc.
Q. Mr. Pirie ; *A.* Mr. Brodrick, *July 15*, 693.

Army—*cont.*

Stores and Supplies—District Contracts for Regimental Institutes—Making District Contracts for Beer Supplies Prohibited by Army Order—Re-consideration of Army Order proposed.
Q. Sir T. Dewar ; *A.* Mr. Brodrick, *July 15*, 692.

Telegrams, Cost of, to Soldiers Serving Abroad—Arrangements for Lessening Expenses Proposed.
Q. Mr. Platt-Higgins ; *A.* Mr. Brodrick, *July 13*, 396.

Tent Bottoms—Conditions of Obtaining Tent Bottoms by Non-Commissioned Officers and Men under Canvas.
Q. Sir G. Bartley ; *A.* Mr. Brodrick, *July 9*, 147.

Troops—Sterilisation of Water for Troops in the Field — Results of Testing Scheme of Sterilisation.
Q. Sir. M. Foster ; *A.* Mr. Brodrick, *July 13*, 395.

Veterinary Department.

Recommendations of Committee on, Nature of, Date of Bringing into Force.
Q. Mr. W. Digby ; *A.* Mr. Brodrick, *July 15*, 693.

Strength of, as Compared with Establishment.
Q. Mr. Pirie ; *A.* Mr. Brodrick, *July 13*, 397.

Army Estimates.

War Office—£331,500, *Com. July 16*, 873.

Arnold-Forster, Mr. H. O.—*Secretary to the Admiralty* [Belfast, W.]

Australian Squadron.

Colonial Contribution—Annual Expenditure, *July 20*, 1142.

Royal Naval Reserve, Cost of Maintenance, by whom borne, *July 20*, 1142.

Devonport and Portsmouth Dockyards—Number of Employees in Receipt of Wages, Number of Vacant Slips, *July 15*, 695.

Diving and Swimming—Inclusion of, in Naval Training, etc., *July 22*, 1435.

"Donegal"—Alleged Postponement of Gunnery Trials owing to Defective Sights on—Sighting Arrangements Experimental, *July 20*, 1137.

"Hyacinth" and "Minerva" Repairs and Trials—Information Available with regard to, at early date, *July 14*, 564.

Naval *Attaché*—Appointment of Additional—Country to which Accredited, etc., *July 20*, 1137.

Asher, Mr. A. [Elgin Burgh]

Licensing Acts (Scotland) Consolidation and Amendment Bill, *July 13*, 453, 465, 476, 507.

Asquith, Rt. Hon. H. H. [Fife, E.]
Licensing Acts (Scotland) Consolidation and Amendment Bill, *July 13*, 444, 455.

Assam
Coolie Riot, cause of.
Q. Mr. H. Roberts; *A.* Earl Percy, *July 22*, 1444.
Excise Administration—Report of Inquiry—Communicating Information to House before Close of the Session.
Q. Mr. H. Roberts; *A.* Earl Percy, *July 15*, 697.

Assizes
Winter Assizes—Orders in Council Relating to Presented, *July 21*, 1249, 1297.

Aston Manor Improvement Bill
c. 3R.* *July 14*, 563.
l. Royal Assent, *July 21*, 1246.

Atherley-Jones, Mr. L. [Durham, N.W.]
British Investments Abroad and Foreign Investments in Great Britain, Amounts of, etc., *July 20*, 1143.

Atkinson, Rt. Hon. J.—*Attorney-General for Ireland* [Londonderry, N.]
Agriculture and Technical Instruction Department, Ireland—Proposed Return of Grants made—Difficulty of Preparing Return—Sources of Information, *July 21*, 1303.
Belturbet Rent Collector Surcharged by Local Government Auditor—Application to be made for *mandamus* to set aside Order confirming Surcharge, *July 21*, 1318.
Dingle Bar, Conduct of Foreign Trawlers in—Insufficient Evidence to sustain Prosecution for Illegal Trawling, *July 14*, 580.
Irish Criminal Law on Irish Members, Operation of—Behaviour of Police in certain Districts—Question of Packed Juries, *July 20*, 1231.
Irish Land Bill—*Committee, July 8*, 36, 37 38, 47, 91, 92, 94, 95, 99, 109; *July 17*, 1046, 1048, 1049, 1060, 1061, 1062, 1063.
Irish National Schools, Committee on Revision of Plans of—Final Report not yet Complete—Allowances in Urgent Cases, *July 21*, 1303.
Longford County.
Appeals in.
Alleged Reduction of Number of — Explanation of Changes made in List of Cases, *July 9*, 143.
Estates for Sale in, Number of, *July 8*, 10.
Mayo Piers and Harbours—Report on received from County Surveyor—No money to be expended on improvements under Marine Works Acts, *July 14*, 580.

Atkinson, Rt. Hon. J.—*cont.*
Tenant Purchaser, Mr. S. Gillmor—Affidavit of Mr. S. Gillmor that he was tenant of "of the Acres" for purpose of obtaining Advance from Land Commission — Proposed Sworn Inquiry, *July 20*, 1150.

Australasia
Australian Commonwealth and Foreign Governments—Agreement of South Australian Government to Arrangement that on Matters relating to Foreign Governments the Commonwealth Government should be consulted.
Q. Mr. W. Redmond; *A.* Mr. J. Chamberlain, *July 9*, 149.
Australian Squadron.
Colonial Contribution to Annual Expenditure—Estimated Cost of.
Q. Mr. C. Wason; *A.* Mr. Arnold-Forster, *July 20*, 1142.
Royal Naval Reserve—Maintenance of, out of Australian contribution.
Q. Mr. C. Wason; *A.* Mr. Arnold - Forster, *July 20*, 1142.

Austria-Hungary
New General Customs Tariff, with Comparison of Customs Duty contained in proposed Tariff with rates at present in force on Imports from United Kingdom—Copy of Translation presented, *July 8*, 3.

Avebury, Lord
County Courts Jurisdiction Extension Bill, *July 16*, 824.
Preferential Tariffs, *July 10*, 280.

Baker Street and Waterloo Railway Bill
l. 3R.* *July 14*, 517.
c. Lords Amendments con. *July*, *20*, 1129.

Baker Street and Waterloo (Extension of Time) Bill
l. Com. *July 14*, 518.

Baker Street and Waterloo Railway (Transfer) Bill
l. Rep.* *July 9*, 125.

Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J.—*Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury* [Manchester, E.]
Cairo Lunatic Asylum—Alleged Inadequacy of Accommodation in, *July 16*, 866.
Clergy—Poverty of—Administration of Ecclesiastical Funds, Proposed Appointment of Royal Commission of Inquiry into, *July 20*, 1160.
Duties on German Goods, Imposition of Retaliatory—Statement of British Ambassador at Berlin with regard to, *July 16*, 863.

Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J.—*cont.*
Ecclesiastical Commissioners Bill—Bill to be Proceeded with, *July 20*, 1160.
Fiscal Inquiry.
British Shipping and Foreign Protective Systems—Proposed Inclusion of Questions relating to within Scope of Inquiry, *July 9*, 161.
Parliamentary Paper, No. 299, of Session of 1825, Proposed Publication of, *July 17*, 1028.
Forth and Clyde Canal, Attitude of Admiralty towards proposed Construction, *July 15*, 702.
Franco-Spanish Alliance, No Information received with regard to, *July 22*, 1450.
Housing of the Working Classes, Introduction of Bill dealing with—Date uncertain, *July 8*, 33.
Ireland, Royal Visit to—Proposed Repeal of Criminal Law and Procedure (Ireland) Act, 1887, Prior to, *July 9*, 159.
Irish Gold Ornaments.
Gift to the Irish Academy, *July 8*, 30.
Tea Room, Proposed Display in, *July 8*, 30.
Irish Land Bill (3R.), *July 21*, 1336.
Iron and Steel Exports, Weight and Value of, in each Half-year of 1901, 1902, 1903, *July 14*, 566.
London Education Bill, *July 14*, 589, 683, 684.
Merchant Shipping Agreements with American International Mercantile Marine Association and Cunard Company not yet completed, *July 20*, 1161.
Naval Base—Proposed consideration of Question of Enlarging the Forth and Clyde Canal for new Naval Base, *July 13*, 414.
Parliamentary Procedure, New Rules of—Opportunity for Debating New Rules as yet Undebated—Proposed Select Committee of Inquiry, Undesirability of Granting, *July 9*, 163.
Patriotic Fund—Introduction of Bill dealing with Patriotic Commission during present season, *July 15*, 704.
Physical Training in England and Wales—Suggested Inquiry on, Form of Inquiry undetermined, *July 15*, 693.
South African War—Royal Commission on, Publication of Report at early date, *July 16*, 869.
Sugar Imports from Austria and Hungary—No Impediment in way of Entering into usual August Contracts, either before or after passing of the Sugar Convention Bill, *July 20*, 1161.
Terminable Leaseholds—Opportunity for Discussion of a Measure to Remedy Defects under present System of Tenure, No Promise with Regard to, possible, *July 8*, 32.

Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J.—*cont.*
Town Holdings Committee, Proposed Appointment of—Proposal not to be carried out, *July 21*, 1320.
Trade with Roumania—Alleged Negotiations between German and Roumanian Government for new Commercial Treaty, Decrease in British Trade with Roumania, *July 16*, 866.
Twelve o'Clock Rule—Suspension of.
No Desire to Suspend Rule Prematurely, *July 16*, 871.
No Fresh Bills of Controversial Nature to be Brought on, under, *July 16*, 872.
Woolwich Royal Arsenal Explosion—Widows and Children of Victims, Provision for, *July 21*, 1306.

Balfour, Rt. Hon. G. W.—*President of the Board of Trade* [Leeds, Central]
Baltasoura, Proposed Removal of Sunken Boat at, *July 13*, 391.
Coal Exports.
Increase in Value of, During First Half of 1903, *July 15*, 688.
Value of, for 1902, *July 14*, 568.
Coasting Steamers—Steamers Allowed to Navigate round United Kingdom Without Certificated Officers on Board—Liability of Officers in Cases of Accidents, to pay cost of Investigation, *July 13*, 390.
Corn Prices Return—Return not to be Granted, *July 14*, 578.
Cotton.
Exports of Cotton Piece Goods in 1872, 1902, *July 16*, 849.
Trade, Slackness in, *July 21*, 1299.
Electric Overhead Wires.
High Voltage Currents on Bare Wires.
Board of Trade, Alleged Restrictions of with Regard to Installation of, *July 17*, 1026.
Inquiry to be made into Accidents Caused by System of Power Transmission in Foreign Countries, *July 20*, 1148.
Memorandum of Electrical Experts with Regard to, received, *July 20*, 1148.
No Case of Installation of, in Great Britain, *July 20*, 1147.
Exports and Re-exports carried by British Ships — Freights not Included in Board of Trade Statistics as to—Impossibility of Forming Estimate of Freight, Amount Earned by British Ships, etc., *July 15*, 687.

[*cont.*

Balfour, Rt. Hon. G. W.—*cont.*

Fiscal Policy.

German Market and Countries adopting Retaliatory Fiscal Policy—No Preference given in German Market to country adopting Retaliatory Fiscal Policy, *July 22*, 1434.

Fiscal Inquiry—Board of Trade Statistics relative to exports and imports, Basis of valuation, *July 20*, 1146.

Fish—Cold Storage for, Communications with Fishmongers' Company on Subject of, *July 15*, 700.

Fishing Boats.

Crew space on Scotch—Deductions for Sanitary Accommodation, Regulations with regard to, *July 20*, 1133.

Tonnage of—Reversion to Test Rule as method of measurement of, *July 13*, 391.

German and British Trade Statistics—Explanation of, Differences, Basis of Valuation of Imports and Exports, *July 20*, 1134.

Import Duties.

British Colonial Import Duties—Return Relative to, to be granted, *July 20*, 1145.

British Colonies—Revenue from, *July 15*, 688.

Imports.

British Colonies and Possessions Imports into, from ForeignCountries—Return to be granted, *July 20*, 1132.

Food Imports from the Colonies and Foreign Countries—Total value of, *July 22*, 1434.

Imports and Exports—Proposal to base Statistics of Exports and Imports upon Tonnage and not Fluctuating Market Values—Disadvantages of System, *July 20*, 1147.

Iron, Steel, etc., and Cotton and Woollen Goods—Average Prices of in 1872 and 1902, *July 20*, 1133.

Kells Railway Stations—No Complaints as to Inconvenience of Site received—Proposed Flag Stations not to be Erected, *July 14*, 583.

Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway—Inquiry into Cause of Accident, *July 21*, 1299.

Light Dues in the United States, Reduction of—Proposed Representations to United States on Subject of, *July 16*, 848.

London and North-Western Railway—Sleeping Accommodation in Holyhead Trains, Increased Charge for—Representations to Railway Company, *July 21*, 1315.

Balfour, Rt. Hon. G. W.—*cont.*

London Printing Trade Dispute—Readiness of Board of Trade to Exercise Powers under Conciliation Act, *July 21*, 1316.

Mercantile Marine Committee, Report of—Recommendations to be Carried into Effect, *July 21*, 1315.

Merchant Seamen—Number sent Home—Cost of Repatriation in Years 1898–1903—Return to be Furnished, *July 22*, 1435.

Shipping Industry—Proposed Inquiry into Effect of Exclusion of British Vessels from Coasting Trade not to be Carried out, *July 20*, 1146.

Wheat.

American All-Rail Export Rates for Wheat, Amount of, *July 15*, 689.

Leiter Wheat Corner, Price of Wheat during Time of, *July 17*, 1026.

Prices of, in France and United Kingdom—Duty in France on Imported Wheat, *July 15*, 699.

Balfour, Major K. [Christchurch]

Foot Guards, Actual Strength and Authorised Establishment, *July 20*, 1139.

Irish Land Bill (*Committee*), *July 8*, 97.

Balfour of Burleigh, Lord—*Secretary for Scotland*

Local Government (Transfer of Powers) Bill, *July 9*, 132.

Motor-cars, Prosecutions under Section 5 of the Summary Jurisdiction Act—No information with regard to, *July 21*, 1293.

Motor-Cars Bill, *July 14*, 545.

(*Committee*), *July 17*, 979, 981, 986, 992, 993, 994, 998, 999, 1000, 1001, 1002, 1003, 1004. 1005, 1009, 1010, 1011, 1012, 1013, 1014, 1015, 1017, 1019; *July 21*, 1256, 1257, 1258, 1259, 1260, 1262, 1263, 1265, 1266.

Baltasound

Removal of Sunken Boat at, proposed. *Q.* Mr. C. Wason; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour, *July 13*, 391.

Banbury, Sir Frederick [Camberwell, Peckham]

London Education Bill, *July 14*, 637; *July 15*, 755.

Bangor Corporation Bill

c. 2R.* *Com.** *July 20*, 1130.

Barracks for Troops

see Military Works (Consolidated Fund).

Barran, Mr. R. H. [Leeds, N.]

London Education Bill, *July 22*, 1502.

Barry Railway Bill

c. Rep.* *July 17*, 1022.

Bartley, Sir G. [Islington, N.]
Tent Bottoms for Officers, Conditions of obtaining tent bottoms by Non-commissioned Officers and Men under canvas, *July 9*, 147.

Bath Corporation Water Bill
l. Rep.* *July 13*, 373.

Bath, Marquess of
Motor-cars Bill (*Committee*), *July 17*, 986, 987 ; *July 21*, 1267.

Bayley, Mr.
Uganda, Collection of Rubber in—Terms and Conditions of Concessions, Laying on Table of, proposed, *July 17*, 1025.

Beach, Sir M. Hicks
Fiscal Policy, Opportunity for discussion of, previous to close of Session, *July 15*, 706.

Beaumaris
County School, Financial Difficulties of—Assistance of Board of Education.
Q. Mr. E. Griffith ; *A.* Sir W. Anson, *July 14*, 568.

Beckett, Mr. E. W. [York, N.R., Whitby]
War Office Reforms—Proposed Establishment of an Army Corps in South Africa, Condition of Recruiting, War Office Clerks, *July 16*, 920.

Belfast
Donegal Street, Disturbance in—Inadequate Police force alleged.
Q. Mr. Sloan ; *A.* Mr. Wyndham, *July 20*, 1138.
Greencastle, Erection of Arch in—Interference of Sergeant of Royal Irish Constabulary, Authority for action.
Q. Mr. Sloan ; *A.* Mr. Wyndham, *July 20*, 1133.

Belgium
Commercial Relations with Great Britain and British Colonies—Correspondence Presented, *July 10*, 271, 306.

Belper, Lord
Lunacy Acts (Amendment) London Bill, *July 9*, 133.
Metropolitan Streets Bill, *July 21*, 1292.
Pistols Bill, *July 9*, 131.

Belturbet
Post Office—Acquisition of Site for new Building, Date of Commencement of Building Operations.
Q. Mr. M'Govern ; *A.* Mr. Austen Chamberlain, *July 9*, 141.
Rent Collector Surcharged by Local Government Auditor, Circumstances of Case, Examination of Rent Books, proposed.
Q. Mr. J. P. Farrell ; *A.* Mr. Atkinson, *July 21*, 1318.

Bengal
Eastern Bengal Railway—Detention of Sirdar and Coolies on, Inquiry proposed.
Q. Mr. Weir ; *A.* Lord G. Hamilton, *July 22*, 1432.

Bermuda
see Naval Works Bill.

Berthing Committee
see Naval Works Bill.

Bhownaggree, Sir M. M. [Bethnal Green, N.E.]
South Africa.
British Indian Subjects in South African Colonies, Treatment of—Lord Milner's Despatch Relative to, *July 22*, 1441.
Garrison, India's Contribution towards Maintenance of—Consultation with Secretary of State and Council, Attitude of, towards Proposed Contribution, Laying Minutes of Council on Table, proposed, *July 22*, 1433.
Troops in—Increase of, *July 16*, 972.

Bicycles (Motor)
see Motor-Cars Bill.

Billingsgate
Fish, Destruction of—at Billingsgate.
Q. Mr. Pirie ; *A.* Mr. B. Law, *July 8*, 17.

Bills of Exchange Bill
c. 1R.* *July 21*, 1321.

Birmingham Corporation Bill
c. *Con.** *July 22*, 1429.

Birmingham District Tramways Bill
c. 2R.* *com.** *July 8*, 1.

Birmingham District Tramways Bill
c. Rep.* *July 17*, 1022.

Black, Mr. A. W. [Banffshire]
Fiscal Policy.
Canadian Tariffs, Differentiation between Colonies, Reason for, *July 21*, 1309.
Colonial Commercial Treaties, Practice as to Commercial Arrangements between self-governing Colonies and Foreign Countries, Alteration of, *July 21*, 1309.
Inquiry.
Inclusion in Inquiry of expediency of establishing an Imperial Council of Representatives of Mother Country and self-governing Colonies, *July 14*, 584.
Most favoured Nation Treatment—Effect of imposition of Import Duties, *July 22*, 1447.

[*cont.*

Black, Mr. A. W.—*cont.*
  Fiscal Policy —*cont.*
    Retaliatory Tariffs, Threatened imposition of, Effect on National Income, *July 21*, 1314.
  Fishing Boats, Crew space on Scotch, Deductions for Sanitary Accommodation, *July 20*, 1133.
  Germany.
    Trade with Canada, German Exports to Canada, Canadian Exports to Germany for 1897 and 1902, Value of—Total extra Duty on Canadian Exports, *July 16*, 864.
    Retaliatory Duties on German Goods, imposition of — Statement of British Ambassador at Berlin with regard to—Authority for statement, *July 16*, 863.
  Imports of Wool and Hides from Australian Colonies, largeness of—Imposition of Duty on Wool and Hides from Foreign Countries, *July 22*, 1443.
  Licensing Acts (Scotland) Consolidation and Amendment Bill, *July 13*, 461, 462, 471, 476, 497, 498; *July 21*, 1400, 1404, 1414; *July 22*, 1519, 1546.
  Military Works (Consolidated Fund), *July 21*, 1386, 1394.
  Naval Works Bill, *July 10*, 357, 360, 362, 363.

Blake, Mr. E.—*Temporary Chairman of Committees* [Longford, S.]
  Irish Land Bill (*Committee*), *July 8*, 64; *July 17*, 1069.

Blind, Deaf, and Defective Children, Schools for—
  see London Education Bill.

Board of Agriculture
  see Agriculture, Board of.

Board of Trade
  see Trade, Board of.

Board of Works, Ireland
  see Works, Board of.

Board of Agriculture and Fisheries Bill
  l. 3R.* *July 9*, 128.
  c. 1R.* *July 21*, 1295.

Board of Guardians
  see Outdoor Relief (Pensions) Bill.

Bogus Clubs
  see Licensing Acts (Scotland) Consolidation and Amendt. Bill.

Boland, Mr. J. [Kerry, S.]
  Bee Keeping Industry, Ireland — Prevalence of Disease of Foul Brood—Legislation proposed, *July 20*, 1152.

Boland, Mr. J.—*cont.*
  Education in Ireland — Work of the National Board—Building Plans for National Schools — Condition of Training Colleges, *July 20*, 1179.
  Irish Land Bill (*Committee*), *July 8*, 80.
  Kells.
    Landing Facilities at — Result of Application to Congested Districts Board for Improved, *July 16*, 855.
    Railway Station—Inconvenience of Site — Representations to Railway Company for Construction of Flag Stations at Doneen and Mount Foley, proposed, *July 14*, 583.
  Sheem Court-house.
    Insanitary Condition of, necessitating Adjournment of Court, Repairs proposed, *July 20*, 1151.
    Inspection of, Refused by Petty Sessions Clerk, alleged, *July 20*, 1151.

Borough Funds Bill
  l. 3R.* *July 10*, 272.

Bond, Mr. E. [Nottingham, E.]
  London Education Bill, *July 14*, 609, 633, 655, 669; *July 15*, 719.

Bonus
  see Irish Land Bill.

Borough Councils
  see London Education Bill.

Boroughs
  Metropolitan Boroughs — Superannuation Allowance to Servants of, Granting of —Sanction of Local Government Board.
    Q. Sir G. Fardell; *A.* Mr. W. Long, *July 21*, 1300.

Boscawen, Capt. Griffith [Kent, Tunbridge]
  County Councils and Voluntary Schools—Resolutions of County Councils to Contribute Nothing but Government Grants to the Maintenance of Voluntary Schools, *July 8*, 5.

Bournemouth Corporation Tramways Bill
  c. Rep.* *July 10*, 304.
  c. con. *July 20*, 1130.

Bousfield, Mr. W. R. [Hackney, N.]
  London Education Bill, *July 14*, 647, 648, 651, 671.

Bowles, Mr. Gibson [Lynn Regis]
  Brussels Sugar Convention.
    Cartel Arrangement upon System to be Introduced by the Convention, Effect of—Further Information Requested, *July 9*, 162.

[*cont.*

Bowles, Mr. Gibson—*cont.*
  Brussels Sugar Convention—*cont.*
    Duties to be Levied after September 1, on Sugars from Countries Signatories of the Convention and other Countries — Attitude towards Countries giving Bounties—Prohibition of Imports from Russia and Austro-Hungary—Certificates of Origin of Sugar—Nature of Certificates Required, etc., *July 9*, 151.
    Imports from Austria, Hungary, and France, Prohibition of, *July 22*, 1445.
    Russian Sugars—Decision of Brussels Permanent Commission with regard to Rates on — Sir H. Bergne's Version of—Attitude of H.M. Government towards Importation of Russian Sugar, *July 22*, 1446.
  Colonial Premiers, Conferences with, in June–August, 1902—Full Report of Proceedings, Publication of, proposed *July 8*, 22.
  Corn, Relative Prices of, in England and Italy, *July 21*, 1299.
  Fiscal Inquiry—Fish Duties, Inclusion in Inquiry of Question of Re-imposition of, *July 8*, 19.
  Franco - Spanish Alliance—Information with Regard to, Conditions of Alliance, etc., *July 22*, 1450.
  Imports of Fish and Diamonds—Non-Publication of Value of, in Official Statistics—Reason for Omission, *July 8*, 19.
  Merchant Shipping — Agreements with American International Mercantile Marine Association and Cunard Company, Completion of, etc., *July 20*, 1161.
  Military Works Bill, Gross Amount to be Asked for in Respect of Military Works, *July 21*, 1307.
  Military Works (Consolidated Fund), *July 21*, 1383, 1384, 1385.
  Naval Works Bill, *July 10*, 314, 315, 317, 328, 329, 345, 364.
  Parliamentary Procedure—Votes and Proceedings—Erroneous Entry alleged—the Chairman having acted contrary to the Regulation of Standing Order No. 30, *July 10*, 302.

Boyle
  Waterworks Loan—Date of Receiving Sanction of Loan, Cause of Delay in issue of.
    Q. Mr. Tully; *A.* Mr. Eliott, *July 8*, 28.

Bradford Corporation Bill
  c. 2R.* *con.** *July 8*, 1.

Brighton Corporation Bill
  c. 1R.* *July 10*, 305.
    2R*. *com.** *July 20*, 1130.
  l. 3R.* *July* 10, 270.

Bristol Corporation Bill
  c. Rep*. *July 21*, 1295.

Britannia Naval College
  see Naval Works Bill.

British Gas Light Company (Norwich) Bill
  l. Royal Assent, *July 21*, 1246.

Broadhurst, Mr. H. [Leicester]
  Army Officers and the Royal Toast—Toast drunk in water instead of wine —King's Statement with regard to—Bringing statement to Notice of Officers in Command, *July 22*, 1440.
  Employment of Children Bill, *July 22*, 1556.

Broadstairs Gas Bill
  l. 3R.* *July 10*, 270.
  c. Lords' Amendments, *con.** *July 16*, 839.
  l. Royal Assent, *July 21*, 1246.

Brodrick, Rt. Hon. W. St. John—*Secretary of State for War* [Surrey, Guildford]
  Army Corps—First Army, Formation of, Strength, etc.—Position of Second, Third, Fourth, Fifth, Sixth Corps, *July 3*, 399.
  Cape "Ragging" Case, *July 16*, 935, 943, 944, 945, 946, 947.
  Contracts.
    District Contracts for Regimental Institutes, Army Order with regard to, not to be Re-considered, *July 15*, 692.
    Fair Wage Resolution, Alleged Infringement of — Inquiry to be made, *July 21*, 1305.
  Foot Guards, Actual Strength and Authorised Establishment, *July 20*, 1139.
  Gordon Highlanders' (1st Battalion) Band —Performance Stopped at Southport —Authority for Action, *July 16*, 857.
  Infantry Soldiers of the Line, Average Cost of, *July 20*, 1138.
  Military Works (Consolidated Fund), *July 21*, 1379, 1381, 1383, 1384, 1385, 1387, 1389, 1393, 1395, 1396.
  Militia, Appointments to the Army from the—New Regulations, Nature of Entrance Examination under, *July 22*, 1439.
  Officers.
    Army Officers and the Royal Toast—Custom not Prescribed by Regulation, *July 22*, 1440.
    Majors serving away from their Regiments—Number of, *July 13*, 396.
    Retired Army Officers re-employed during South African War—Increase of Pension, *July 22*, 1439.
    Staff Officers—Army Regulations with regard to Regimental Duty, Disregard of, during South African War, *July 13*, 399.

Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John—*cont.*
- Prior, Lieutenant—Resignation tendered by, *July 16*, 860.
- Recruiting, Condition of — Quick-firing Guns—Probable position in Somaliland—Garrison in South Africa—Defence of India — Answers to questions and criticisms, *July 16*, 899.
- Regiments having served through South African War—Question of Return Home under consideration, *July 16*, 856.
- Rifle Ranges.
  - Mullingar Rifle Range—Extension of, Negotiations for Purchase of Land uncompleted, *July 21*, 1304.
  - Proposed Return of Number of, Number closed during 1902, Number opened, etc.—to be Granted if Moved for, *July 14*, 570.
- Royal Military College Cadets—Training of, after leaving College, arrangements for continuation of and obviating delay in gazetting, *July 21*, 1305.
- Royal Scots Fusiliers, 2nd Battalion—South African War Medals not yet distributed to, Cause of delay, *July 15*, 693.
- Soldiers Serving Abroad—Cost of Telegrams, Proposed arrangements for lessening expenses of, *July 13*, 396.
- Somaliland Military Expedition—British and Native Losses, *July 13*, 397.
- South African Garrison, Expenditure per week for Maintenance of, *July 13*, 398.
- "Staffordshire" — Alleged Mock Court-Martial held on the "Staffordshire," No information received with regard to, *July 16*, 861.
- Tent Bottoms for Officers—Conditions of obtaining tent bottoms by Non-Commissioned officers and men under canvas, *July 9*, 147.
- Veterinary Department.
  - Recommendations of Committee on, under consideration, *July 15*, 693.
  - Strength of, as compared with establishment, *July 13*, 397.
- Volunteers.
  - North Devon Volunteers—Increase in number of, Proposed increase of Camp Allowance not to be made, *July 16*, 861.
  - "Pass School" Certificates for Militia and Volunteer Officers—Possibility of obtaining Certificate without going through London Barracks, *July 14*, 571.
- War Office.
  - Appointments—Answer to questions and criticisms, *July 16*, 881, 890, 895.
  - Contracts and Irish tailors, *July 13*, 400.

Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John—*cont.*
- War Office—*cont.*
  - Vote.
    - South African Garrison—Linked Battalion System, Statement of Policy with regard to, on War Office Vote, *July 16*, 862.
  - Water—Sterilization of Water for Troops in the Field, Tests of Scheme of Sterilization in process, *July 13*, 395.
  - Woolwich Royal Arsenal—Proximity of danger buildings to gun-firing ground, Question of danger to men in danger-buildings under consideration, *July 13*, 398.

Broughty Ferry Gas Provisional Order Bill
- *l.* Royal Assent, *July 21*, 1245.

Brunner, Sir J.
- Medical Examination of School Children—Action of Scottish School Boards—Encouragement to English and Welsh Local Authorities to follow Example of, *July 13*, 387.

Bryce, Rt. Hon. James [Aberdeen, S.]
- Education Act, Work of Local Authorities Under—Women on Education Committees — By-law Concerning Religious Instruction—Physical Condition of School Children — Science teaching in Grammar Schools—Importance of Literary Training, *July 9*, 228.
- Licensing Acts (Scotland) Consolidation and Amendment Bill, *July 13*, 477, 508.
- London Education Bill, *July 14*, 588, 589, 599, 610, 617, 638, 648, 655, 669; *July 15*, 716, 725, 731, 734, 741, 755, 764, 766, 768, 780, 789, 791, 795, 815.
- London Education Bill, *July 22*, 1467.
- Schools, Science and Art Grants to, *July 9*, 181.

Buchanan, Mr. T. R. [Perthshire, E.)
- Army Corps in South Africa, *July 16*, 970.
- British Garrison in South Africa—Charge on Indian Revenue for Maintenance of—Consent of Indian Government to Proposal—Laying Correspondence on Table Proposed, *July 20*, 1136.
- Licensing Acts (Scotland) Consolidation and Amendment Bill, *July 13*, 430, 457, 490, 506, 512; *July 22*, 1532.
- Military Works (Consolidated Fund), *July 21*, 1395.
- Naval Works Bill, *July 10*, 323, 338.
- Portsmouth Dockyard—Annual Cost of, *July 15*, 696.

Buckingham Palace
- Works Proceeding in Front of—Nature of.
  - *Q.* Sir J. Fergusson; *A.* Mr. V. Cavendish, *July 21* 1320.

Bull, Mr. W. J. [Hammersmith]
London Education Bill, *July 15*, 786; *July 22*, 1478.

Burghclere, Lord
Motor-Cars Bill (*Committee*), *July 17*, 983; *July 21*, 1262, 1264, 1265, 1271.

Bury and District Joint Water Board Bill
c. 2R.* com.* *July 15*, 685.

Business of the House
Course of Business.
Acland-Hood's, Sir A., Statement of Business, *July 8*, 124.
Balfour's, Mr., Replies to Questions, Statements, etc., *July 8*, 33; *July 13*, 416; *July 16*, 870; *July 17*, 1028; *July 20*, 1162.

Butcher, Mr. J. G. [York]
Irish Land Bill (*Committee*), *July 8*, 54, 78, 79, 98; *July 17*, 1047, 1060, 1061, 1072, 1087.
Land Purchase Acts—Tithe Rent-Charges, Redemption of, Difference in Number of Years' Purchase Payable to State and Private Owners, Reason for Distinction, *July 16*, 855.

Buxton, Mr. S. C. [Tower Hamlets, Poplar]
Exports to Foreign Countries of Woollen and Cotton Goods and Cutlery Exports, Value of in 1872, 1902, *July 8*, 7.
London Education Bill, *July 14*, 597, 603, 604, 616, 625, 640, 659, 672; *July 15*, 713, 726, 733, 740, 778.
London Education Bill, *July 22*, 1496.

Cable Communication
Charges between India and China—Reduction of, proposed.
Q. Mr. Flower; *A.* Mr. Austen Chamberlain, *July 16*, 867.

Cadets, Military
Training of, after leaving Royal Military College—Arrangements for Continuation of, and obviating delay in Gazetting.
Q. Captain Norton; *A.* Mr. Brodrick, *July 21*, 1305.

Cairo
Lunatic Asylum, Alleged Inadequacy of Accommodation in— Date of Erecting New Asylum.
Qs. Mr. Weir; *As.* Mr. A. J. Balfour, *July 16*, 866.

Caldwell, Mr. [Lanarkshire, Mid]
Licensing Acts (Scotland) Consolidation and Amendt. Bill, *July 13*, 446; *July 21*, 1399, 1403, 1407, 1422, 1425; *July 22*, 1508, 1510, 1518, 1536, 1537, 1542, 1548.
Metropolitan Streets Bill (*Committee*), *July 8*, 120, 121, 122.

Caledonian Canal
Report of Commissioners Presented, *July 16*, 841.

Campbell, Mr. James—*Solicitor-General for Ireland* [Dublin University]
Irish Land Bill (*Committee*), *July 8*, 64, 66, 69.

Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H. [Stirling Burghs]
Irish Land Bill (3R.) *July 21*, 1333.
Licensing Acts (Scotland) Consolidation and Amendt. Bill, *July 13*, 427, 454.
Military Works (Consolidated Fund), *July 21*, 1396.
Permanent Garrison in South Africa, Objections to—Defence of the Indian Frontier — Promotion in the War Office, *July 16*, 916.
Sugar Convention Bill — Desirability of not taking Bill under Twelve o'Clock Rule, *July 16*, 871.

Camperdown, Earl of
Motor-Cars Bill, *July 14*, 526.
(*Committee*), *July 17*, 983, 987, 994, 1001, 1002, 1003, 1004, 1005, 1010, 1013; *July 21*, 1272, 1273, 1274, 1277, 1278, 1285.

Canada
Cattle, Canadian, Imported into United States and United Kingdom—Number and Value of—Rate of Import Duty.
Q. Mr. Haldane; *A.* Mr. J. Chamberlain, *July 8*, 13.
Customs Duty—Length of Notice Required Previous to Imposing Tax on Imported Goods.
Q. Mr. D. A. Thomas; *A.* Mr. J. Chamberlain, *July 20*, 1140.
Germany, Trade with—German Exports to Canada, Canadian Exports to Germany, for 1897 and 1902, Value of—Total Extra Duty on Canadian Exports.
Q. Mr. Black; *A.* Mr. J. Chamberlain, *July 16*, 864.
Iron and Steel Goods—Manufacture of, in Canada.
Q. Mr. D. A. Thomas; *A.* Mr. J. Chamberlain, *July 20*, 1140.
Locomotives for—Orders placed in Glasgow for—Reason for Securing Orders.
Q. Mr. Remnant; *A.* Mr. J. Chamberlain, *July 13*, 400.
Railways, British Locomotives for—Difference in Price between Accepted Tender and Lowest Tender of Foreign Firm—Amount of Preference.
Q. Mr. Levy; *A.* Mr. J. Chamberlain, *July 14*, 571; *Q.* Master of Elibank; *A.* Mr. J. Chamberlain, *July 16*, 859.
Tariffs—Differentiation between Colonies, Reason for.
Q. Mr. Black; *A.* Mr. J. Chamberlain, *July 21*, 1309.

Caning in Schools
see Education, Board of—Schools.

Canteens
see War Office.

Cape "Ragging" Case
see War Office.

Cardiff Railway Bill
see con. July 10*, 303.
c. 3R.* *July 14*, 562.
l. Royal Assent, *July 21*, 1246.

Carmarthenshire Electric Power Bill
l. con. July 16*, 859.
c. 3R.* *July 20*, 1129.

Carson, Sir Edward — *Solicitor-General* [Dublin University]
Naval Works Bill, *July 10*, 350.

Carts
Prosecution for Carts without Owner's Name thereon—Case of D. Buckley—Impartial carrying out of requirements of the law by the Police.
Q. Mr. Flynn; *A.* Mr. Wyndham; *July 13*, 395.

Castleblaney, Keady, and Armagh Railway (Extension of Time) Bill
c. Rep.* *July 10*, 304.
l. 1R.* *July 14*, 518.
c. con. July 14*, 562.
c. 3R.* *July 14*, 562.
l. 2R.* *Com.* July 21*, 1247.

Castletown Berehaven
Fishing Industry—Establishment of Herring curing stations and herring markets, proposed.
Q. Mr. Gilhooly; *A.* Mr. Wyndham, *July 9*, 157.

Cattle
Canadian Cattle imported into United States and United Kingdom, Number and Value of—Rate of Import Duty.
Q. Mr. Haldane; *A.* Mr. J. Chamberlain, *July 8*, 13.
Railway Transit—Humane Cattle Cars, Refusal to use such Cars, alleged—Inquiry into question of live stock land transit proposed.
Q. Mr. Field; *A.* Mr. A. Fellowes, *July 8*, 24.

Causton, Mr. [Southwark, W.]
London Education Bill, *July 15*, 776, 781.

Cavendish, Mr. V. [Derbyshire, W.]
Buckingham Palace, Works proceeding in front of—Preparation for National Memorial to Queen Victoria, *July 21*, 1320.
Queen Victoria Memorial—Preparation of Site of, Date of Completion of Works, etc., *July 21*, 1320.
Rotten Row Ambulance, stationed at West End of Row — Inspection of Police and St. John's Ambulance, *July 8*, 25.

Ceylon
Boer Prisoners in, Number of, etc.
Q. Mr. S. Macneill; *A.* Mr. J. Chamberlain, *July 8*, 15.

Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. Austen, *Postmaster-General* [Worcestershire, E.]
British Postal Servants from South Africa, Re-instatement of, *July 22*, 1437.
Cable Charges between India and China, No further Reduction possible, *July 16*, 867.
Central Telegraph Office, Holidays in, alleged grievances of Senior Clerks, *July 22*, 1435.
  Tube Attendants, Promotion of, *July 22*, 1436.
Cork Postal Arrangements — Proposed Daily Delivery for certain townlands, Inquiry to be made, *July 13*, 413.
Drumquin, County Tyrone, Postal Facilities at—Proposed Daily Mail Service, Inquiry in progress with regard to, *July 10*, 309.
Dublin Post Office, Competitive Examination for Appointments—Recommendation of Tweedmouth Commission not adopted in case of —Eligibility of Dublin Clerks for Clerkships in London Offices, *July 15*, 689.
  Post Office—Holiday Scheme—Adoption of New Scheme, *July 16*, 870.
Dublin Sorting Office, Bank Holidays—Present Arrangements with regard to, no intention of reverting to old system, *July 21*, 1318.
  Holiday Grievance, Memorials from Dublin Sorting Office, *July 21*, 1319.
Dublin, Telegraphic Arrangements at, Breakdown of, on occasion of Gordon-Bennett Cup Race, *July 15*, 690.
  Telegraphic Office, Male Dining-Room at—Petitions with regard to management of, *July 15*, 690.
Gordon-Bennett Race—Destruction of Films in the Post—Compensation not to be paid, *July 20*, 1115.
  Telegraphic Arrangements, Breakdown of—Cause of delays under investigation, *July 8, 10*, 29.
International Sea Post Offices—Establishment of Sea Post Offices on British Packet Steamers to United States, under consideration, *July 9*, 150.
Ireland.
  Belturbet Post Office—Acquisition of Site for New Building—Completion of Arrangements delayed—Date of Commencement of Building Operations, *July 9*, 141.
  Post Offices, Exhibition of Emigration Notices in—Proposed Removal of—No change of practice deemed necessary, *July 9*, 160.

Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. Austen—*cont.*
  Irish Savings Bank Accounts—Accounts kept in London—Advantages of arrangement, *July 13*, 413.
  Mail Service—Chinese Mails, Conveyance of, by Trans-Siberian Route—Arrangements for, in progress with Russian authorities, *July 16*, 848.
  Motor-Mails, Regulations as to Speed of, issued by Local Government Board—No necessity for adoption of system of speed registration, *July 13*, 389.
  Mount Pleasant Factory Basket Shop Staff, Reduction in, Reason for, *July 14*, 569.
  New Zealand Mails and the Cunard Steamship Company—Alleged Refusal of Steamship Company to allow "Campania" to wait for New Zealand Mails—Explanation of Case, *July 16*, 847.
  Oxford Street Telegraph Office—Sanitary Condition satisfactory—Date on which Lease expires, *July 9*, 140.
  Portarlington Post Office—Blane, Maria, Case of—Retirement without Pension or Gratuity, Grounds for, *July 14*, 581.
  Postman J. Black, Alleged Delay in supplying Uniform to—Inquiry to be made, *July 9*, 142.
  Postmen, Assistant Head—Case of C. W. Mason, of Clapham, *July 17*, 1028.
  Postmen, Auxiliary, Wages of—No Alteration contemplated—Ineligibility of Auxiliary Postmen for Pension, *July 9*, 141.
  Post Office.
    Aberdeen Post Office Employees—Alleged Refusal to grant Leave of Absence in order to Attend Volunteer Camp—Inquiry to be made, *July 15*, 694.
    Employees—Second Division Clerks—Number of Registrations during Twelve Months ending December, 1902, *July 20*, 1136.
  Telegraphic Delays—Question under Investigation, *July 8*, 30.
  Telegraphic Delays in Scotland—Breakages of Wires during Gale—Length of Delay in Transmission, *July 13*, 406.
  Telegraph Offices—Conditions of Transfer of Office from Schedule B to A, *July 21*, 1301.
  Telegraph Service Employees—Alleged Maximum Salary promised by Civil Service Commissioners to Candidates, Matter not to be reconsidered, *July 9*, 141.
  Telephone Service.
    Mill Hill, Telephonic Communication at, Establishment of, Date uncertain, *July 10*, 310.
    Wages Committee of Inquiry—Scope of Inquiry, *July 16*, 867.
  Women Telephone Operators—Marriage Allowance granted to, *July 20*, 1136.

Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J. *Secretary of State for the Colonies* [Birmingham, W.]
  Brussels Sugar Convention—British Obligations with regard to Colonial Sugar, *July 21*, 1310.
    Colonial Bounties—No Bounties to be granted after Sept. 1st, 1903, *July 21*, 1310.
    Communication of, to Colonies, *July 21*, 1310.
  Colonial Commercial Treaties—Practice as to Commercial arrangements between Self-Governing Colonies and Foreign Countries, *July 21*, 1309.
  Colonial Conferences of 1887, 1894, 1897, 1902—Discussion on Preferential Tariffs at, *July 16*, 857.
  Colonial Imports of Foreign Goods, Proposed Return of, *July 21*, 1308.
  Canada.
    Canadian Cattle Imported into United States and United Kingdom—Number and Value of, Rate of Import Duty, *July 8*, 13.
    Canadian Pacific Railway, British Locomotives for—Details of Tenders and Contracts not to asked for, *July 14*, 571; *July 16*, 859.
    Canadian Tariffs—Differentiation between Colonies, Reasons for, *July 21*, 1309.
    German Trade with—German Exports to Canada, Canadian Exports to Germany, for 1897 and 1902, Value of, *July 16*, 864.
  Fiji, Administration of—Proposed Appointment of Independent Commission to Report on, not to be made, *July 14*, 575.
  Hong Kong, Governorship of—Expiration of Present Appointment in 1904, *July 16*, 865.
  Hong Kong Post Office—Alleged Delay in Erection of New Post Office, *July 16*, 865.
  Indian Labour for Southern Rhodesia—Proposal of Government of Southern Rhodesia—Attitude of Indian Government towards, *July 22*, 1441.
  Land Settlement—Mr. Carlis' Scheme—No Information Received with regard to, *July 8*, 15.
  Locomotives for Canada—Orders placed in Glasgow for—Reason for Securing Orders, *July 13*, 400.
  Lord Milner and the *Johannesburg Leader*—Alleged Dismissal of Editorial Staff by Lord Milner, no Information Received with regard to, *July 13*, 400.
  Merchandise Marks Act, Effect of, on British Industries not stated to be Injurious, *July 16*, 859.
  Municipal Election Ordinance—Report from Lord Milner on Subject of, not yet received, *July 9*, 149.

[*cont.*

Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J.—*cont.*
Native Labour in British South Africa—Commission of Inquiry into, Composition of, *July 21*, 1309.
Plague in Hong Kong—Treatment of Patients in their Homes, *July 21*, 1311.
South Africa, Railway Construction in—Restrictions as to Employment of Native Labour in, *July 21*, 1311.
Spirit Licences Issued in the Gold Coast—Regulations with Regard to Issue—Sources of Information, *July 10*, 307.
Transvaal.
Boer Prisoners in Ceylon, Number of—Conditions of Return to South Africa, *July 8*, 15.
Deportation of British Undesirables, *July 9*, 148.
Precious Stones Ordinance, *July 15*, 696.
Telegraph Offices, Classification of, Alteration of Condition of Entrance in Schedule A., Date of Change—Conditions of Entering Group 2, *July 21*, 1301.
West Indian Exports—Return of Total Exports and Sugar Exports together with Percentage of Sugar Exports to Total Exports, *July 16*, 858.

Chamberlayne, Mr. T. [Southampton]
Income Tax Returns—Issue to Landowners of Forms for Statement of Income—Dispensing with Return in Certain Cases proposed, *July 14*, 565.
Woolwich Royal Arsenal Explosion — Widows and Children of Victims, Provision for, *July 21*, 1306.

Channing, Mr. F. A. [Northampton, E.]
London Education Bill, *July 22*, 1459.

Chard Corporation Gas and Electricity Bill
c. Rep.* *July 17*, 1022.

Charing Cross, Euston, and Hampstead Railway Bill
c. Lords' Amendts. con. July 8*, 1.
l. Royal Assent, *July 21*, 1246.

Chatham.
see Naval Works Bill.

Chatham and District Light Railways Bill
l. Rep.* *July 16*, 839.
c. con. July 22*, 1429.

Cheshire Lines Committee Bill
c. Lords' Amendts. con. July*, *10*, 303.
l. Royal Assent, *July 21*, 1246.

Children
Orphan and Deserted Children, Number of.
Q. Mr. Harwood; *A.* Mr. W. Long, *July 9*, 143.

Children—*cont.*
School Children, Medical Examination of, Action of Scottish School Boards—Encouragement to English and Welsh Local Education Authorities to follow example of.
Q. Sir J. Brunner; *A.* Sir W. Anson, *July 13*, 387.

Children and Intoxicants
see Licensing Acts (Scotland) Consolidation and Amendment. Bill.

China
Cable Charges between India and China, Reduction of, proposed.
Q. Mr. Flower; *A.* Mr. Austen Chamberlain, *July 16*, 867.
Mail Service from England to China—Conveyance by Trans-Siberian Route, proposed.
Q. Mr. L. Sinclair; *A.* Mr. Austen Chamberlain, *July 16*, 848.
Railways—Proposed British Railway from Kowloon to Canton, Date of concession for, Names of Concessionaires, Cause of delay in commencement of Railway.
Q. Mr. Weir; *A.* Lord Cranborne, *July 21*, 1313.

Church Discipline Bill
c. con. July 13*, 516.

Churchill, Mr. Winston [Oldham]
Colonial Imports of Foreign Goods, Nature of, Classification into manufactured and unmanufactured goods, etc., *July 21*, 1308.
Military Works (Consolidated Fund), *July 21*, 1386, 1387.
Sinking Fund—Estimated amount to be devoted to, in year 1903-4—Aggregate amount to be spent on capital account, *July 21*, 1313.
War Office Promotion — Permanent Garrison in South Africa—Statistics of recruiting—Reforms necessary in Intelligence Department, *July 16*, 888, 894, 901, 902.

Church of Scotland
Resolution of General Assembly and the Confession of Faith, Steps to be taken with regard to.
Q. Mr. J. F. X. O'Brien; *A.* Mr. G. Murray, *July 20*, 1150.

City and South London Railway Bill
l. 3R.* *July 20*, 1093.

City of London
see London Education Bill

Civil Service
Retired Allowance Granted—Treasury Minute Presented, *July 15*, 686; *July 16*, 819.

Civil Service Estimates
see Supply.

Clancy, Mr. [Dublin Co., N.]
Irish Land Bill (*Committee*), *July 8*, 39, 76; *July 10*, 1053.
Irish National Schools, Deficiencies in—Action and Constitution of National Board—Denominationalism, *July 20*, 1143.

Clare, County
Absence of Crime in—Withdrawal of Proclamation under Criminal Law and Procedure (Ireland) Act, proposed.
Q. Mr. W. Redmond; *A.* Mr. Wyndham, *July 8*, 26.

Clergy
Poverty of the Clergy—Administration of Ecclesiastical Funds, Appointment of Royal Commission of Inquiry into.
Q. Mr. Humphreys-Owen; *A.* Mr. A. J. Balfour, *July 20*, 1160.

Coal Exports
Increased exports during first half of 1903—Amount of increase due to increased exports of coal and coke.
Q. Sir J. Lawrence; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour, *July 15*, 688.
Value of, for 1902.
Q. Mr. Mansfield; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour, *July 14*, 568.

Coastguard Stations
see Naval Works Bill.

Cochrane, Hon. F. H.—*Under-Secretary Home Office* [Ayrshire, N.]
Employment of Children Bill, *July 22*, 1554.

Cohen, Mr. [Islington, E.]
London Education Bill, *July 14*, 598, 641, 653; *July 15*, 721, 773.

Collections in Public Streets
see Metropolitan Streets Bill.

Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse [Birmingham, Bordesley]
Employment of Children Bill, *July 22*, 1549.

Colomb, Sir John [Great Yarmouth]
Irish Land Bill (*Committee*), *July 8*, 90, 91, 92, 96, 97; *July 17*, 1032, 1054.
Military Works (Consolidated Fund), *July 21*, 1397.
Naval Works Bill, *July 10*, 354.

Colombo
see Naval Works Bill.

Colonies
Annual Report Presented, *July 17*, 974, 1024; *July 21*, 1247; *July 22*, 1430.

Colonies—*cont.*
Brussels Sugar Convention—Communication of, to Colonies—Replies.
Q. Mr. Lough; *A.* Mr. J. Chamberlain, *July 21*, 1310.
Commercial Treaties — Practice as to Commercial Arrangements between Self-Governing Colonies and Foreign Countries—Alteration of.
Qs. Mr. Black; *As.* Mr. J. Chamberlain, *July 21*, 1309.
Conferences with Colonial Premiers in June-August, 1902—Full Report of Proceedings, Publication of, proposed.
Q. Mr. G. Bowles; *A.* Mr. A. J. Balfour, *July 8*, 22.
Defence of the Empire—Colonial Contributions towards Expenditure—Inclusion in Fiscal Inquiry of Question, proposed.
Q. Dr. Macnamara; *A.* Mr. A. J. Balfour, *July 8*, 21.
Exports—British and Foreign Exports to, Total Amount of.
Q. Mr. Mansfield; *A.* Mr. A. J. Balfour, *July 22*, 1447.
Import Duties.
  Amount of Duties on Imports from Great Britain and Ireland, and from all Imports.
  Qs. Mr. A. Davies; *As.* Mr. G. Balfour, *July 13*, 401.
  Granting of Return Relative to, proposed.
  Q. Mr. A. Davies; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour, *July 20*, 1145.
  Return Ordered, *July 21*, 1298.
  Revenue from, in Years 1882, 1892, 1902.
  Q. Mr. A. Davies; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour, *July 15*, 688.
Imports.
  Foreign Imports into—Effect of Merchandise Marks Act on, Repeal of Act, proposed.
  Q. Mr. D. A. Thomas; *A.* Mr. J. Chamberlain, *July 16*, 859.
  Imports from Foreign Countries to—Value of Manufactured Goods, etc.
  Q. Mr. Partington; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour, *July 14*, 567.
  Imports into British Colonies and Possessions from Foreign Countries—Value of Manufactured Goods, Raw Material and Food Stuffs respectively, in 1901.
  Q. Mr. Partington; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour, *July 20*, 1132.
  Imports of Foreign Goods—Nature of, Classification into Manufactured and Unmanufactured Goods, etc.
  Qs. Mr. W. Churchill; *As.* Mr. J. Chamberlain, *July 21*, 1308.

[*cont.*

Colonies—*cont.*
  Preferential Tariffs Discussions on Subject of, at Conferences of 1887, 1894, 1897, 1902, Reprinting of, proposed.
    Q. Mr. F. Thomas; *A.* Mr. J. Chamberlain, *July 16*, 857.
  Trade between Great Britain and the Colonies—Resolution at Colonial Conference against Adoption of General Free Trade—Grounds for Resolution, etc.
    Q. Mr. D. A. Thomas; *A.* Mr. J. Chamberlain, *July 20*, 1139.
  Wheat Exports to Great Britain—Extent of Preference given to Colonial Wheat in Customs Tariff from 1832-1845.
    Q. Mr. D. A. Thomas; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour, *July 14*, 567.

Company Schools
  see Education, Board of.

Congested Districts
  see Irish Land Bill.

Congested Districts Board
  see Scotland.

Congested Districts and Congested Districts Board, Ireland
  Chairman of Kerry District Council, Appointment of, to next Vacancy on Board, proposed.
    Q. Mr. Murphy; *A.* Mr. Wyndham, *July 20*, 1137.
  Grazing Farms in, Purchased by Money advanced by Land Commission to Non-residents of District—Provision in Irish Land Bill with regard to.
    Q. Mr. O'Dowd; *A.* Mr. Wyndham, *July 13*, 412.
  Kerry, Demand for Representation of, on Board—Appointment of Resident of Kerry to next Vacancy on Board, proposed.
    Q. Mr. T. O'Donnell; *A.* Mr. Wyndham, *July 21*, 1317.
  Kerry unrepresented on Board—Appointment of Representative of Kerry at next Vacancy, proposed.
    Q. Mr. T. O'Connell; *A.* Mr. Wyndham, *July 21*, 1317.
  Munster, Representation of, in event of Vacancy on Congested Districts Board.
    Qs. Mr. Flavin and Mr. Gilhooly; *A.* Mr. Wyndham, *July 13*, 408.

Constabulary, Royal Irish
  Belfast—Disturbance in Donegal Street—Inadequate Police Force, alleged.
    Q. Mr. Sloan; *A.* Mr. Wyndham, *July 20*, 1138.
    Erection of Arch in Greencastle—Interference of Sergeant of Royal Irish Constabulary, Authority for Action, *July 20*, 1138.
  Sligo, Extra Police at—Application of Government to County Council for Payment of Cost of—Means for Relieving Ratepayers of Additional Tax.
    Q. Mr. O'Dowd; *A.* Mr. Wyndham, *July 16*, 868.

Contempt of Court
  Fresh Legislation proposed.
    Q. Mr. Field; *A.* Sir R. Findlay, *July 21*, 1302.
  Ireland.
    Imprisonment for Contempt of Court—Case of McElligott—Nature of Charge, etc.
      Qs. Mr. Dillon; *As.* Mr. Wyndham, *July 13*, 407.
    Introduction of Legislation to Amend Present Law Relating to Contempt of Court, during Present Session.
      Q. Mr. O'Dowd; *A.* Mr. A. J. Balfour, *July 8*, 32.

Contracts (India Office) Bill
  l. Royal Assent, *July 21*, 1245.

Cooper's Hill College
  Consultation with Indian Government Previous to Decision as to Future of College.
    Q. Sir S. King; *A.* Lord G. Hamilton, *July 13*, 393.

Corbett, Mr. [Glasgow, Tradeston]
  Licensing Acts (Scotland) Consolidation and Amendment Bill, *July 13*, 438; *July 21*, 1416; *July 22*, 1548.

Corbett, Mr. T. L. [Down, N.]
  Irish Land Bill (*Committee*), *July 8*, 113.

Corfu
  British Cemetery at—Agreement with Hellenic Government Relative to Transfer of Bodies to New Cemetery—Laying on Table of, proposed.
    Q. Mr. Stevenson; *A.* Lord Cranborne, *July 9*, 150.

Cork
  Postal Arrangements—Daily Delivery for certain townlands, proposed.
    Q. Captain Donelan; *A.* Mr. Austen Chamberlain, *July 13*, 413.

  Queen's College—Report for Session 1902-1903, *July 21*, 1248, 1297.

Corn
  Prices of—Relative Prices of, in England and Italy.
    Q. Mr. G. Bowles; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour, *July 21*, 1299.
  Return of Prices—Granting of, proposed.
    Q. Mr. Trevelyan; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour, *July 14*, 578.

Corn Duty
  Result to Farmers.
    Q. Mr. Lambert; *A.* Mr. Ritchie, *July 21*, 1302.

Cotton Industry
  Cause of Slackness in—Deficiency of Raw Cotton—Increasing Imports of Raw Material.
    Q. Sir W. Holland; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour, *July 21*, 1299.

[*cont.*

Cotton Industry—*cont.*

Cotton Trust, Effect of on Cotton Industry—Number and Wages of Employees Out of Work through Closing of Mills.
  Q. Mr. Field; *A.* Mr. B. Law, *July 8*, 16.

Exports of Cotton Piece Goods in 1872, 1902.
  Q. Mr. Runciman; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour, *July 16*, 849.

Exports to Foreign Countries.
  Q. Colonel Denny; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour, *July 21*, 1298.

County and Borough Councils

see Military Lands Bill.

County Councils

see Licensing Acts (Scotland) Consolidation and Amendment Bill.

Voluntary Schools, Grants to—Resolution of County Councils to Contribute Nothing but Government Grants to the Maintenance of Voluntary Schools.
  Q. Mr. G. Boscawen; *A.* Sir W. Anson, *July 8*, 5.

County Councils (Bills in Parliament) Bill

l. Royal Assent. *July 21*, 1245.

County Courts

Plaints and Sittings—Address for Returns, *July 10*, 306.

County Courts Jurisdiction Extension Bill

Debate on Second Reading [L.], *July 16*, 824.
  Amount able to be dealt with by Courts, 825, 829, 831, 833.
  Commerce, Attitude of Chambers of, 826, 833.
  High Court, Applications to, 825, 830.
  Judges, Number of, 827, 832.
  Registrars, Number of, 827, 832.

County Officers and Courts (Ireland) Act

Accounts of Receipts and Payments Presented, *July 20*, 1094, 1132.

Craig, Mr. Charles [Antrim, S.]

Education in Ireland—Training Colleges and Denominationalism — Construction of Schoolhouses—Question of Playgrounds, *July 20*, 1182.

Irish Land Bill (*Committee*), *July 8*, 38.

London and North Western Railway—Sleeping Accommodation in Holyhead Trains, Increased Charge for, Reduction proposed, *July 21*, 1315.

Craig, Mr. Hunter [Lanarkshire, Govan]

Licensing Acts (Scotland) Consolidation and Amendment Bill, *July 13*, 445, 478, 493; *July 21*, 1404; *July 22*, 1511, 1538, 1547.

Cranborne, Lord, *Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs* [Rochester].

British East Africa, Value of Imports and Exports for 1903, *July 16*, 843.

Brussels Sugar Convention, Attitude of Austria and Hungary towards, Demand for alteration of Legislation —Charges on Russian Sugar, *July 15*, 697.

Chinese Railways, Proposed British Railway from Kowloon to Canton—Date of Concession for, Cause of delay in commencement of Railway, *July 21*, 1313.

Chironio and Blantyre Railway—Construction of, Date of Commencement and Completion—Length of Line, *July 16*, 842.

Corfu, British Cemetery at, Agreement with Hellenic Government relative to transfer of bodies to new cemetery—Agreement to be laid on Table when complete, *July 9*, 150.

Cretan Consul-General—Appointment of Retired Member of Diplomatic Service, *July 20*, 1143.

Crete, Government of—Report of High Commissioner on Judicial, Administrative and Fiscal Departments—Proposed communication of to House, *July 9*, 150.

Egypt.
  Anglo-Egyptian Convention, Validity of, *July 14*, 577.
  Assouan Dam, Increased area of land brought into cultivation by means of—No Information with regard to—No Alteration of Dam under consideration, *July 14*, 577.
  Egyptian Finance—Present arrangements with regard to, to remain in force till 1905, *July 14*, 576.
  Egyptian Judicial System—No change in contemplated at present, *July 14*, 576.
  Orphan Children and Destitute Poor in—Provision for, by Government —No information received on subject of, *July 14*, 577.
  Suakim-Berber Railway, Construction of, Position with regard to, *July 9*, 139.

German Commercial Treaty—Papers relative to Denunciation of Commercial Treaty, Reason for Delay in presentation of, *July 13*, 403.

Grants-in-Aid to Somaliland, British East and Central Africa and Uganda—Amount of, *July 16*, 843.

McKinley Tariff Law—Reciprocity Treaties under, Number concluded, *July 8*, 4.

Mecca Pilgrims from Egypt, Number of—Information with regard to, in Report "Egypt, No. 1 (1903)", *July 13*, 433.

Roumania, Trade Interests in—Proposed Appointment of Trade Expert, *July 22*, 1446.

[*cont.*

Cranborne, Lord—*cont.*
Russian Evacuation of Manchuria, Date of—Disposal of Customs Revenue Collected at Newchwang Port, *July 13*, 402.
Uganda—Collection of Rubber in, Main Terms and Conditions of Concessions, *July 17*, 1025.
Uganda Railway Accounts—Annual Statement of Accounts to be laid before the House, Visits paid to Line by Members of Railway Committee, *July 15*, 698.

Craven, Earl of
Motor Cars Bill (*Committee*), *July 21*, 1263.

Crean, Mr. [Cork Co., S.E.]
Irish Land Bill (*Committee*), *July 8*, 40.

Cremer, Mr. [Shoreditch, Haggerston]
Irish Land Bill (3R.), *July 21*, 1366.

Crete
Consul-General—Appointment of Retired Member of Diplomatic Service.
Q. Mr. J. Walton; *A.* Lord Cranborne, *July 20*, 1143.
Government of Crete—Report of High Commissioner on Judicial Administrative and Fiscal Departments, Communication to House, proposed.
Q. Mr. Stevenson; *A.* Lord Cranborne, *July 9*, 150.

Crewe, Earl of
Motor Cars Bill (*Committee*), *July 17*, 984.

Cripps, Mr. [Lancashire, Stretford]
Denominational Management, Board Schools Transferred—Operation of the Education Act—Religious Instruction in Schools—Schemes of Local Authorities—Importance of Literary Training in Schools—Grants for Training Colleges—Cost of Deaf and Blind Schools, *July 9*, 214, 230.
London Education Bill, *July 15*, 763, 767.

Crombie, Mr. [Kincardineshire]
Aberdeen Post Office Employees—Leave of absence to attend Volunteer Camp, refused to, Granting leave of absence proposed, *July 15*, 694.
Licensing Acts (Scotland), Consolidation and Amendment Bill, *July 13*, 418, 419, 441, 462, 498, 506; *July 21*, 1410, 1423.

Crooks, Mr. [Woolwich]
London Education Bill, *July 15*, 776; *July 22*, 1464.

Cross, Mr. Alexander [Glasgow, Camlachie]
Licensing Acts (Scotland) Consolidation and Amendment Bill, *July 21*, 1415.

Croydon and District Electric Tramways Bill
l. 1R.* *July 14*, 518.
c. 3R.* *July 14*, 562.

Cullinan, Mr. [Tipperary, S.]
Irish Land Bill (*Committee*), *July 8*, 42, 47, 95.

Cunard Steamship Company
New Zealand Mails—Alleged Refusal of, Steamship Company to allow "Campania" to wait for New Zealand Mails, Arrangements with Company for taking on Mails, proposed.
Q. Mr. A. Davies; *A.* Mr. Austen Chamberlain, *July 16*, 847.

Cust, Mr. [Southwark, Bermondsey]
Recruiting, Condition of, *July 16*, 962.

Customs Department
Assistant Clerks, Extension of Annual Leave, proposed,
Q. Mr. C. Hay; *A.* Mr. Elliott, *July 16*, 854.
Upton, Charles—Customs Watcher, Granting small pension to, proposed.
Q. Captain Norton; *A.* Mr. Elliot, *July 21*, 1302.

Cutlery
Exports to Foreign Countries.
Q. Colonel Denny; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour, *July 21*, 1298.

Dalkeith, Earl of [Roxburgh]
Licensing Acts (Scotland) Consolidation and Amendment Bill, *July 13*, 451, 466, 475, 485, 505.

Dalkey
Revision Court—Holding of in Dalkey, proposed.
Q. Mr. Lundon; *A.* Mr. Wyndham, *July 9*, 158.

Dalziel, Mr. J. H. [Kirkcaldy Burghs]
Licensing Acts (Scotland) Consolidation and Amendment Bill, *July 13*, 470, 478, 484, 488, 492, 499, 506, 508; *July 21*, 1413, 1414, 1422, 1425; *July 22*, 1526, 1533, 1535.
Military Works (Consolidated Fund), *July 21*, 1392, 1394.

Dartmouth, Earl of
Motor Cars Bill (*Committee*), *July 17*, 1005, 1010.
Volunteer Rifle Ranges—Distribution of sum allocated for, Method of, *July 17*, 1019.

Davey, Lord
County Courts Jurisdiction Extension Bill, *July 16*, 831.
Incest Bill, *July 16*, 823.

Davies, Mr. A. [Carmarthen Boroughs]
British Colonial Import Duties.
Amount of Duties on Imports from Great Britain and Ireland, and from all Imports, *July 13*, 401.
Granting of Return Relative to, proposed, *July 20*, 1145.

[*cont.*

Davies, Mr. A.—*cont.*
British Colonial Import Duties—*cont.*
Revenue from Import Duties—in years 1882, 1892, 1902, *July 15*, 688.
Fiscal Inquiry—Mode of holding Inquiry, *July 16*, 863.
International Sea Post Offices—Report of Postmaster-General of United States on Benefit of—Establishment of Sea Post Offices on Cunard Steamers—Reconsideration ot Decision with regard to, proposed, *July 9*, 150.
New Zealand Mails and the Cunard Steamship Company—Alleged Refusal of Steamship Company to allow "Campania" to wait for New Zealand Mails—Arrangements with Company for taking on Mails, proposed, *July 16*, 847.

Day Industrial Schools (Ireland) Bill
c. con. July 13*, 516.

Deaf and Blind Schools
see Education, Board of.

Defence of the Empire
Total Cost of.
Q. Mr. C. Wason; *A.* Mr. A. J. Balfour, *July 20*, 1157.

Delany, Mr. W. [Queen's Co., Ossory]
Bogus Police Returns in Ireland—Responsibility of Attorney-General, *July 20*, 1225.
Inland Revenue *v.* McDonnell.
Amount of Costs—Reason for not taking Proceedings in the County Court, *July 13*, 389.
Assessment of Income—Grounds for making such Assessment, *July 13*, 390.
Irish Evicted Tenants—Provision in Land Bill for Claims of Evicted Tenants to receive Priority in Proceedings of Estates Commission, *July 16*, 869.
Portarlington Post Office—Blane, Maria, Case of—Retirement without Pension or Gratuity, Grounds for, *July 14*, 581.

Denbigh, Earl of
Marine Store Dealers (Ireland) Bill, *July 14*, 557.
Public Offices (Dublin) Bill, *July 17*, 1020.

Denmark
Accession of, to International Convention, Establishing International Union for Protection of Literary and Artistic Works, etc., *July 17*, 974, 1024.

Denny, Colonel J. M. [Kilmarnock Burghs]
Exports and Re-exports Carried by British Ships — Inclusion in Statistics of Freights to Ports of Destination—Estimate of Freight, Amount Earned by British Ships, etc., *July 15*, 687.

Denny, Colonel J. M.—*cont.*
Exports to Foreign Countries of Cotton and Woollen Goods and Cutlery, *July 21*, 1298.
"Hyacinth" and "Minerva" Repairs of Time Expended on Mileage Run on Trials and Commissions, *July 14*, 564.
Licensing Acts (Scotland) Consolidation and Amendment Bill, *July 13*, 445; *July 22*, 1523, 1543.

Denominational Schools
Education, Board of—Education Act—London Education Bill.

Denominationalism
see Education in Ireland.

Derby Gas Bill
c. Rep.* *July 10*, 304.
con. July 17*, 1021.
3R.* *July 21*, 1294.

Devine, J., late 2nd Dragoon Guards
Application for Pension Refused.
Q. Sir F. Rasch; *A.* Lord Stanley, *July 20*, 1141.

Devlin, Mr. Joseph [Kilkenny, N.]
Irish Criminal Law against Members, Operation of—Police behaviour in Belfast concerning the United Irish League — Alleged intimidation by Police — Responsibility of Attorney-General, *July 20*, 1221.

Devonport
Dockyard Employees—Number in receipt of Wages, Number of vacant slips.
Q. Sir C. Dilke; *A.* Mr. Arnold-Forster, *July 15*, 695.

Devonshire
North Devon Volunteers, Reduction in Number of, alleged—Increasing Camp Allowances, proposed.
Q. Mr. Soares; *A.* Mr. Brodrick, *July 16*, 861.

Devonshire, Duke of—*Lord President of the Council*
Fiscal Inquiry—Hostile Tariffs of Foreign Countries on British Colonies, Proposed Publication of, *July 13*, 379.
Imports and Exports—Excess of British Imports over Exports, Estimate of, Communication with Board of Trade as to preparing information with regard to, *July 14*, 558.
India and the South African Garrison, Proposal to place portion of cost of, on Revenues of India, Advantages to India of Scheme, etc., *July 20*, 1125.
Preferential Tariffs, *July 10*, 301.

Dewar, Mr. [Inverness-shire]
Highland Crofters and Cottars, Condition of — Lands purchased by Congested Districts Board—Allocation of Bonus—Neglect of fishing industry, *July 9*, 267.

Dewar, Sir T. R. [Tower Hamlets, St. George's]
  Indian Labour for Southern Rhodesia—Proposal of Government of Southern Rhodesia—Attitude of Indian Government towards, *July 22*, 144.
  Light Dues in the United States, Reduction of, Representations to United States on Subject of, proposed, *July 16*, 848.
  Regimental Institutes, District Contracts, Making District Contracts for beer supplies prohibited by Army Order, Reconsideration of Army Order, proposed, *July 15*, 692.
  Volunteers, Certificates of efficiency, number received during 1903, Attendance at Camps, *July 22*, 1440.

Dewsbury, Batley and Bristol Tramways Bill
  c. Rep.* *July 17*, 1022.

Dickson, Mr. Scott—*Solicitor General for Scotland* [Glasgow, Bridgton]
  County Council Clerks acting as Parliamentary Agents—Inability of Government to intervene with view to stopping practice, *July 9*, 156.
  Licensing Acts (Scotland) Consolidation and Amendment Bill, *July 21*, 1400, 1411.
  Lewis, Island of — Proposed Grant of Housing Loans to Crofters, Inability of Congested Districts Board to Grant Loans, *July 9*, 156.
  Port of Ness Harbour—Damages done to Breakwater by Storm, Report on extent of damages received, Repairs, *July 8*, 26.
  Vaccination in Scotland — Glycerinated Calf Lymph, Proposed Issue of Circular Recommending use of, Step considered unnecessary, *July 8*, 26.

Didcot, Newbury, and Southampton Railway Bill
  c. con. *July 14*, 562.
  3R.* *July 17*, 1021.

Digby, Mr. Wingfield [Dorset, N.]
  Army Veterinary Department—Recommendations of Committee on, Nature of, Date of bringing into force, *July 15*, 693.

Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir C. W. [Gloucester, Forest of Dean]
  Devonport and Portsmouth Dockyards—Number of Employees in receipt of Wages—Number of Vacant Slips, *July 15*, 695.
  London Education Bill, *July 15*, 740.
  Mercantile Marine Committee, Report of, Carrying out Recommendations of, proposed, *July 21*, 1315.
  Military Works (Consolidated Fund), *July 21*, 1381, 1383.

Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir C. W.—*cont.*
  Native Labour in British South Africa, Commission of Inquiry into—Representation of Interests other than Mining, proposed, *July 21*, 1309.
  South Africa, Railway Construction in—Restrictions as to Employment of Native Labour in Conditions of Contract—Reason for Restrictions, *July 21*, 1311.
  South African Garrison — Linked Battalion System, Statement of Policy with regard to, on War Office Vote, *July 16*, 862.
  War Office Appointments and Promotion—Condition of Recruiting—Permanent Garrison in South Africa—Arrangements for Supply of Mounted Infantry —Deficiencies in Quick-firing Guns, *July 16*, 892.

Dillon, Mr. J. [Mayo, E.]
  Army Rations Destroyed at Pretoria—Contracts for Rations—Authority Responsible for Passing Contracts, *July 14*, 572.
  Contempt of Court in Ireland, Imprisonment for—Case of Mc Elligott, Nature of Charge, etc., *July 13*, 407.
  Case of Crown *v.* Stapleton, Delaney and Caroll, at Borrisoleigh, Tipperary—Notice of Change of Venue and Special Jury served on Defendants—Exercise of Right of Jury Challenging, *July 15*, 691.
  Education, Ireland—Question of Denominationalism — Condition of Schoolhouses — Constitution of National Board—Question of Model Schools, *July 20*, 1185.
  Irish Land Bill (*Committee*), *July 8*, 41, 59, 62, 64, 97, 104, 110, 116, 118; *July 17*, 1040, 1047, 1048, 1049, 1050, 1056, 1066, 1071.
    3R. *July 21*, 1340.
  Loan Fund Legislation in Ireland—Inaction of present Government with regard to, alleged, *July 16*, 841.
  Loan Fund Legislation in Ireland—Statement in Report of Board as to Necessity of Introducing Legislation —Reason for Inaction of Government with regard to recommendations of the Board, *July 8*, 11.
  Members of the House, Operation of Criminal Act against — Administration of the Coercion Act—Behaviour of the Police in certain Districts, *July 20*, 1226.
  Naval Works Bill, *July 10*, 359.
  Somaliland Military Expedition—General Manning's Despatches, Decision of Government as to future Policy—Communication of to House—Cost of Operations, *July 20*, 1140.

Dimsdale, Sir Joseph [City of London]
  London Education Bill, *July 15*, 757, 758.

Dingle Bay

Foreign Trawlers in, Conduct of—Steps for Punishment of Owners of Trawlers proposed.
Q. Mr. T. O'Donnell; *A.* Mr. Atkinson, *July 14*, 580.

Diplomatic and Consular Service

Cretan Consul-General—Appointment of Retired Member of Diplomatic Service.
Q. Mr. J. Walton; *A.* Lord Cranborne, *July 20*, 1143.

Great Britain and Ireland—Total Cost to.
Q. Mr. C. Wason; *A.* Mr. A. J. Balfour, *July 20*, 1157.

Diseases of Animals

Orders in Council Presented, *July 13*, 375, 387.

Dockyards

see Naval Works Bill.

"Donegal"

Postponement of Gunnery Trials, owing to Defective Sights on "Donegal"—Person Responsible for Defective Apparatus.
Q. Mr. Yerburgh; *A.* Mr. Arnold-Forster, *July 20*, 1137.

Donelan, Captain A. J. C. [Cork, E.]

Cork Postal Arrangements—Daily Delivery for certain Townlands, *July 13*, 413.

Postmen, Auxiliary—Increased Wages and Retiring Allowances—Consideration of Claim to, proposed, *July 9*, 141.

Donoughmore, Earl of

Incest Bill, *July 16*, 820.

Pistols Bill, *July 9*, 129.

Douglas, Rt. Hon. Akers—*Secretary of State for the Home Department* [Kent, St. Augustine's]

Executions, Confessions at—No Statutory Rule in Existence with regard to Extorting Confession from Condemned Prisoner—Explanation of Occurrence at Execution of Dougal, *July 16*, 850.

Fiscal Inquiry—Home Office not Engaged in, *July 22*, 1431.

Habitual Offenders, Punishment of—Amendment of Law at early date, *July 16*, 850.

Lochgelly (Fifeshire) Outbreak of Typhoid at — Measures Taken to Prevent Spread of Infection, *July 9*, 154.

Magistrates, Metropolitan—Proposed Increase in Number of to be Considered, *July 14*, 569.

Metropolitan Streets Bill (*Committee*), *July 8*, 120, 123.

Prison Commissioner—Appointment of Successor to Lieut.-Col. Garsia, *July 16*, 851.

Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers—*cont.*

Prisoners, Female—Instruction given in Laundry, Cookery, Sanitation, to Prisoners in Metropolitan Prisons—Appointment of Female Prison Inspectors not to be reconsidered, *July 15*, 686.

Vaccination Exemption Certificates.

Magistrate Refusing Certificate—Case of Mr. Crossley, East Ham, *July 8*, 24.

Number Granted during last twelve months at Stratford, *July 8*, 3.

Vivisection.

Experiments under Certificate C —No such experiments witnessed by by Government Inspector, *July 16*, 851.

Experiments without Anæsthetics—Starving and overfeeding animals not included in feeding experiments, *July 22*, 1438.

Licences, Violation of, Conditions of, Number of Cases of—Criminal proceedings not instituted, *July 16*, 882.

Douglas, Mr. Charles Lanarkshire, (N.W.)

Licensing Acts (Scotland) Consolidation and Amendment Bill, *July 13*, 467, 470, 483.

Drainage and Improvement of Lands (Ireland) Provisional Order Bill

l. 2R.* *Com.** *July 17*, 974.
*l. Com.** Rep.* *July 21*, 1248.

Dublin

Post Office.

Competitive Examinations for Appointments—Recommendation of Tweedmouth Commission with Regard to, not carried out—Bringing into Force of Scheme at Early Date proposed.
Q. Mr. Nannetti; *A.* Mr. Austen Chamberlain, *July 15*, 689.

Holiday Scheme—Adoption of New Scheme.
Q. Mr. Nannetti; *A.* Mr. Austen Chamberlain, *July 16*, 870.

Sorting Office, Holidays in.

Memorials from Dublin Sorting Office, Delay in Answer to—Expediting Reply proposed.
Q. Mr. Nannetti; *A.* Mr. Austen Chamberlain, *July 21*, 1319.

Privileges with Regard to, Withheld under New Leave Regulations — Reversion to Former System proposed.
Q. Mr. Nannetti; *A.* Mr. Austen Chamberlain, *July 21*, 1318.

[*cont.*

Dublin—*cont.*

Telegraph Office.

Breakdown of Telegraphic Arrangements at Dublin on Occasion of Gordon-Bennett Cup Race—Inadequacy of Arrangements to meet Pressure, alleged.
Q. Mr. Nannetti; *A.* Mr. Austen Chamberlain, *July 15*, 690.

Male Dining-room at—Petitions with Regard to Management of—Decisions not shown to Staff, Reason for Omission.
Q. Mr. Nannetti; *A.* Mr. Austen Chamberlain, *July 15*, 690.

Dudley, Stourbridge, and District Tramways Bill

c. Rep.* *July 10*, 304.
*con.** *July 17*, 1021.
3R*. *July 21*, 1294.

Duffy, Mr. W. J. (Galway, S.)

Doning (Galway) Evening Continuation School—Delay in Payment of Fees, Cause of, *July 9*, 158.

Gun Licence—Refusal at Gort, Licence Refused to E. Treston, Reason for Refusal, *July 9*, 158.

Duke, Mr. H. E. [Plymouth]

Irish Land Bill (*Committee*), *July 17*, 1076.

Duncan, Mr. J. H. [Yorks, W.R., Otley]

Fewston (Yorkshire), Glebe Lands, Sale of—Approval of Land Commissioners given to—Sale in compliance with The Glebe Lands Act, 1888, Inquiry of Sanitary Authority with regard to Sale, etc., *July 14*, 569.

Dyke, Rt. Hon. Sir William Hart [Kent, Dartford]

Irish Land Bill (*Committee*), *July 17*, 1055, 1057.

East Ham Improvement Bill

l. Rep.* *July 14*, 517.

Ecclesiastical Commissioners

Number of Meetings held in 1901, 1902—Attendances at Meetings, etc.
Q. Mr. B. Jones; *A.* Mr. L. Knowles, *July 13*, 406.

Ecclesiastical Commissioners Bill

Intentions with regard to proceeding with the Bill.
Q. Sir H. Fowler; *A.* Mr. A. J. Balfour, *July 20*, 1160.

Education

Elementary Schools — Limit of size, Schools to which sanction has been given to exceed prescribed limit.
Q. Sir J. Gorst; *A.* Sir W. Anson, *July 9*, 140.

Education—*cont.*

Elementary Schools—Religious Instruction in, Enactment of Local Authorities Providing for the giving of Religious Instruction at end of School Session proposed, Powers of Local Authority.
Q. Dr. Macnamara; *A.* Sir W. Anson, *July 14*, 579.

Ireland.

Annual Report for 1902, Presented, *July 17*, 974, 1023.

Denominationalism, Question of.
Os. Mr. Craig, *July 20*, 1183; Mr. Dillon, *July 20*, 1185; Mr. Samuel Young, *July 20*, 1189; Mr. Clancy, *July 20*, 1195; Mr. T. W. Russell, *July 20*, 1197; Mr. Wyndham, *July 20*, 1205.

Equivalent Grant, Amount of—Account taken of population of London in calculating.
Q. Mr. T. M. Healy; *A.* Mr. Wyndham, *July 20*, 1155.

Inspectorate of Schools.
Os. Mr. T. O'Donnell. *July 20*, 1178,

Intermediate Education—Examination Standard, Reduction of Pass Standard for Examination in 1903 proposed.
Q. Mr. O'Mara; *A.* Mr. Wyndham, *July 9*, 146.

Rules for Examination in Music, Presented, *July 10*, 272, 305.

Marlborough Street Training College, Condition of.
Os. Mr. T. W. Russell, *July 20*, 1168; Mr. T. O'Donnell, *July 20*, 1169; Mr. Sloan, *July 20*, 1191; Mr. Wyndham, *July 20*, 1206.

Model Schools,
Os. Mr. Dillon, *July 20*, 1210; Mr. Wyndham, *July 20*, 1210; Mr. Flynn, *July 20*, 1211.

National Board, Constitution and Work of.
Os. Mr. T. O'Donnell, *July 20*, 1176; Mr. Boland, *July 20*, 1179; Mr. Dillon, *July 20*, 1186; Mr. Clancy, *July 20*, 1194; Mr. T. W. Russell, *July 20*, 1196; T. M. Healy, *July 20*, 1201.

National Schools, Committee on Revision of Plans of, Nature of Report—Communication of, to Managers, etc.
Q. Mr. T. Healy; *A.* Mr. Atkinson, *July 21*, 1303.

National Schools, Damage by Storm, Provision of Funds for Repair of.
Q. Sir T. Esmonde; *A.* Mr. Atkinson, *July 21*, 1303.

[*cont.*

Education—*cont.*
Ireland—*cont.*
National Schools—Oral Examinations in Irish—Appointment of additional Examiners, proposed.
Q. Mr. T. O'Donnell; *A.* Mr. Wyndham, *July 20*, 1152.

Schoolhouses—Construction of.
Os. Mr. Boland, *July 20*, 1181; Mr. C. Craig, *July 20*, 1183; Mr. Dillon, *July 20*, 1185; Mr. Sloan, *July 20*, 1190; Mr. Wyndham, *July 20*, 1207; Mr. W. Redmond, *July 20*, 1212.

Teachers' Pensions.
Os. Mr. T. O'Donnell, *July 20*, 1177.

Teachers—Training of.
Os. Mr. T. W. Russell, *July 20*, 1269; Mr. T. O'Donnell, *July 20*, 1269; Mr. Charles Craig, *July 20*, 1183.

London Education—Election of New Authority, Arrangements with regard to.
Q. Mr. H. Robertson; *A.* Sir W. Anson, *July 13*, 393.

"Passive Resistance" to the Education Rate—Difficulty in Securing Services of Auctioneers for Sale of Property Seized under Distress Warrants—Issue of Circular of Instructions to Local Authorities, proposed.
Q. Sir C. M'Laren; *A.* Mr. G. Lawson, *July 20*, 1144.

Rates—Levying of, by County and Borough Councils prior to Act becoming Operative.
Q. Mr. Levy; *A.* Mr. W. Long, *July 9*, 154.

Religious Instruction in Schools—Bye-Law Authorising Withdrawal of Children from School till after time of Religious Instruction, Modification of, proposed.
Q. Mr. Platt-Higgins; *A.* Sir W. Anson, *July 22*, 1437.

Rural Schools Curriculum—Substitution of Drawing for Instruction in General Agriculture, proposed.
Qs. Mr. Lambert; *As.* Sir W. Anson, *July 22*, 1449.

Education Act
see Education, Board of.

Education, Board of
President—Marquess of Londonderry.
Parliamentary Secretary—Sir William Anson.

Company Schools, Grants to.
Os. Lord E. Fitzmaurice, *July 9*, 204; Sir W. Anson, *July 9*, 205.

Consultative Committee, Work of.
Os. Sir W. Anson, *July 9*, 178.

Deaf and Blind Schools, Cost of.
Os. Mr. Cripps, *July 9*, 217.

Education, Board of—*cont.*
Education Act
Committee, Constitution of.
Os. Sir W. Anson, *July 9*, 166.

Councils, Schemes of.
Os. Sir W. Anson, *July 9*, 166; Sir John Gorst, *July 9*, 191; Lord Fitzmaurice, *July 9*, 199; Mr. Cripps, *July 9*, 216; Mr. Ernest Gray, *July 9*, 222; Mr. Bryce, *July 9*, 228; Mr. A. Hutton, *July 9*, 236.

Delegation of Powers.
Os. Sir W. Anson, *July 9*, 170, 248; Mr. Lloyd-George, *July 9*, 241, 248.

Denominational Schools, Control of.
Os. Dr. Macnamara, *July 9*, 209, 211, 213; Mr. Cripps, *July 9*, 214.

"Passive Resistance Movement."
Os. Mr. Cripps, *July 9*, 215; Mr. Yoxall, *July 9*, 219; Mr. Lloyd-George, *July 9*, 242.

Education Committees—Statement of Schemes for formation of, approved in June, 1903. Presented, *July 13*, 375, 387.

Women as Members of.
Os. Sir W. Anson, *July 9*, 169, 246; Mr. Bryce, *July 9*, 228.

Elementary Education.
Physical Condition of Children.
Os. Sir W. Anson, *July 9*, 185, 243, 265; Sir J. Gorst, *July 9*, 193, 264; Lord Edmund Fitzmaurice, *July 9*, 201; Mr. Yoxall, *July 9*, 220; Mr. Bryce, *July 9*, 231; Mr. Lloyd-George, *July 9*, 238; Mr. Weir, *July 9*, 265, 266.

Teeth of School Children.
Os. Mr. Weir, *July 9*, 265.

Work of Boys after School.
Os. Sir W. Anson, *July 9*, 185; Mr. E. Gray, *July 9*, 225.

Evening Classes.
Os. Sir W. Anson, *July 9*, 174.

Examinations, Systems of.
Os. Mr. E. Gray, *July 9*, 227; Mr. Alfred Hutton, *July 9*, 237; Sir W. Anson, *July 9*, 245.

Expenditure.
Elementary Education.
Os. Sir W. Anson, *July 9*, 181; Sir John Gorst, *July 9*, 193.

Secondary Education.
Os. Sir W. Anson, *July 9*, 178; Sir John Gorst, *July 9*, 192.

Inspectorate of Schools.
Os. Sir W. Anson, *July 9*, 174, 243; Mr. Lloyd George, *July* 9, 176; Sir John Gorst, *July 9*, 197; Mr. Ernest Gray, *July 9*, 226; Mr. Norman, *July 9*, 264.

Intelligence Department, Work of.
Os. Mr. Emmott, *July 9*, 254, 263; Mr. Whitley, *July 9*, 255.

[*cont.*

Education, Board of—*cont.*
Literary Training.
Os. Sir William Anson, *July 9*, 179; Sir John Gorst, *July 9*, 192; Lord E. Fitzmaurice, *July 9*, 203; Mr. Cripps, *July 9*, 217; Mr. Bryce, *July 9*, 232; Sir F. S. Powell, *July 9*, 233.

Religious Instruction.
Os. Mr. Vicary Gibbs, *July 9*, 205; Dr. Macnamara, *July 9*, 211; Mr. Cripps, *July 9*, 215; Mr. Yoxall, *July 9*, 218; Mr. Bryce, *July 9*, 229; Sir F. Powell, *July 9*, 234; Sir W. Anson, *July 9*, 245.

Sadler, Mr., Resignation of.
Os. Mr. Emmott, *July 9*, 249; Mr. Whitley, *July 9*, 255; Mr. Helme, *July 9*, 257; Sir William Anson, *July 9*, 257.

Schools.

Caning in.
Os. Sir John Gorst, *July 9*, 197.

Ventilation of.
Os. Sir J. Gorst, *July 9*, 195; Lord Edmund Fitzmaurice, *July 9*, 200; Mr. Lloyd-George, *July 9*, 239; Sir W. Anson, *July 9*, 243.

Science Teaching in Grammar Schools.
Os. Sir W. Anson, *July 9*, 179; Lord E. Fitzmaurice, *July 9*, 203; Mr. Bryce, *July 9*, 231; Sir F. Powell, *July 9*, 234.

Secondary Education.
Os. Sir W. Anson, *July 9*, 173; Mr. Yoxall, *July 9*, 221; Mr. E. Gray, *July 9*, 223; Mr. Alfred Hutton, *July 9*, 236; Mr. Middlemore; *July 9*, 237.

Syllabuses and Lists of Apparatus applicable to schools other than elementary, presented, *July 20*, 1094, 1131.

Teachers.

Number of children in classes.
Os. Dr. Macnamara, *July 9*, 210; Mr. E. Gray, *July 9*, 225.

Pupil Teachers.
Os. Sir W. Anson, *July 9*, 183; Sir J. Gorst, *July 9*, 183; Mr. W. Jones, *July 9*, 190; Lord Edmund Fitzmaurice, *July 9*, 202; Dr. Macnamara, *July 9*, 208; Mr. E. Gray, *July 9*, 224; Mr. A. Hutton, *July 9*. 237.

Training Colleges.
Os. Sir W. Anson, *July 9*, 181; Mr. W. Jones, *July 9*, 188; Sir J. Gorst, *July 9*, 191; Mr. Cripps, *July 9*, 217; Mr. Ernest Gray, *July 9*, 224.

Universities, Training in connection with.
Os. Sir W. Anson, *July 9*, 182; Mr. William Jones; *July 9*, 188; Sir J. Gorst, *July 9*, 191; Lord E. Fitzmaurice, *July 9*, 202.

Education, Board of—*cont.*
Technological Department.
Os. Sir W. Anson, *July 9*, 173.

Training Colleges *see* Teachers (subheading).

Tripartite System.
Os. Sir W. Anson, *July 9*, 172.

Education Committee
see London Education Bill.

Education Board Provisional Orders Confirmation [East Ham, etc.] Bill
l. Royal Assent, *July 21*, 1245.

Education Board Provisional Order Confirmation [London] Bill
c. 1R.* *July 9*, 135.
2R.* *Com.* *July 17*, 1021.

Education (Borrowing) Bill
l. Royal Assent, *July 21*, 1245.

Egypt
Anglo-Egyptian Convention, Validity of.
Q. Mr. Weir; *A.* Lord Cranborne, *July 14*, 577.

Assouan Dam—Increased Area of Land brought into cultivation by means of, Alteration of Dam.
Q. Mr. Weir; *A.* Lord Cranborne, *July 14*, 577.

Finance—Steps to remove financial difficulties imposed by Laws of Liquidation.
Q. Mr. B. Jones; *A.* Lord Cranborne, *July 14*, 576.

Judicial System—Inconvenience arising from divers jurisdictions, Simplification of system proposed.
Q, Mr. B. Jones; *A.* Lord Cranborne, *July 14*, 576.

Orphan Children and Destitute Poor—Provision for, by Government.
Q. Mr. Weir; *A.* Lord Cranborne, *July 14*, 577.

Electricity
High-Tension Currents on Overhead Wires—Restrictions of Board of Trade with regard to, Cases of installation of currents in England.
Q. Mr. Markham; A. Mr. G. Balfour, *July 17*, 1026.

High Voltage Current Overhead Wires—Cases of installation of, in Great Britain.
Q. Mr. Markham; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour, *July 20*, 1147.

High Voltage Currents on Bare Wires, Alleged danger of—Inquiry into Accidents caused by system of power transmission in Foreign Countries, proposed.
Q. Mr. Markham; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour, *July 20*, 1148.

Memorandum of Electrical Experts with regard to—Steps taken in view of Memorandum.
Q. Mr. Markham; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour, *July 20*, 1148.

Electric Lighting Provisional Order (No. 5) Bill
l. 2R.* *Com.** *July 10*, 270.
Rep.* *July 14*, 518.
3R.* *July 16*, 818.
Royal Assent, *July 21*, 1245.

Electric Lighting Provisional Order (No. 7) Bill
*c. Lords' Amendts., con.,** *July 8*, 1.
l. Royal Assent, *July 21*, 1245.

Elementary Education (Amendment) Bill
l. 3R.* *July 16*, 838.
l. Royal Assent, *July 21*, 1245.

Elementary Schools
see London Education Bill.

Elgin, Earl of
Preferential Tariffs, *July 10*, 284.

Elibank, Master of [Edinburgh, Midlothian]
Canadian Railway, British Locomotives for—Details of Tenders and Contracts Requested, *July 16*, 859.

Russian Evacuation of Manchuria, Date of — Disposal of Customs Revenue Collected at Newchwang Port, *July 13*, 402.

Ellenborough, Lord
Motor-Cars Bill (*Committee*), *July 17*, 1012.

Elliot, Hon. A. R. D.—*Financial Secretary to the Treasury* [Durham]
Boyle Waterworks Loan, Cause of Delay in Issue of, *July 8*, 28.

Customs Assistant Clerks—Proposed Extension of Annual Leave, *July 16*, 854.

Irish Post Office Savings Bank—Accounts of, kept in London—Advantages of Arrangement, *July 14*, 582.

Irish Public Accounts—Proposed Establishment of Permanant Audit Office Staff at Dublin—Not to be Adopted, *July 13*, 412.

Post Office and Trustee Savings Banks—Number of Banks, Number of Depositors in England and Ireland respectively—Equal Facilities Afforded in England and Ireland, *July 14*, 578.

Prepared Medicines, Government Stamp on—Regulations of Board of Inland Revenue with regard to, Effect of, *July 8*, 9.

Public Holidays — Allowances paid to Officials on Piece-Work on Occasion of Coronation, Contrary to Usual Practice, *July 14*, 566.

Royal Visit to Ireland—Work at Dublin Castle Entrusted to English Firms, Reason for Exclusion of Irish Firms, *July 14*, 570.

St. Mel's Cathedral, Ardagh—Steps for Preservation of Ruins of—Inability of Treasury or Board of Works to take Action, *July 8*, 10.

Elliott, Hon. A. R. D.—*cont.*
Sale of Land to Lord Penrhyn—Consideration Received by Crown—Conditions of Sale, *July 20*, 1144.

Upton, Charles—Customs Watcher—Ineligibility of, for Pension, *July 21*, 1302.

Ellis, Mr. J. E. [Nottinghamshire, Rushcliffe]
Fiscal Inquiry — Instructions Given to Public Departments in Connection with Giving Information for Inquiry, to which Departments Given, etc., *July 13*, 415.

Grants - in - Aid to Somaliland, British East and Central Africa, and Uganda —Amount of, *July 16*, 843.

Trade of Somaliland, British East and Central Africa, and Uganda—Value of Imports and Exports for 1903, *July 16*, 843.

Emmott, Mr. [Oldham]
Grants for School of Science, *July 9*, 181.
London Education Bill, *July 15*, 722.

Sadler, Mr., Resignation of—Position of Board of Education—Necessity for an Intelligence Department Inquiry, *July 9*, 249, 258, 261, 262, 263.

Employment of Children Bill.
Consideration of Amendments (C.), *July 22*, 1549.

Bye-laws, Question of, 1551, 1555, 1556, 1557.

County Councils, Authority of, 1552.

Departmental Committee, Report of, 1550.

Education Act, Effect of, 1555.

Local Authority, Scope of, 1549, 1554, 1556.

Rural Districts, Regulations Necessary for, 1549, 1554.

Erith Tramways and Improvement Bill
l. 2R.* *con.** *July 9*, 125.

Esmonde, Sir T. [Wexford, N.]
Irish Gold Ornaments—Display of, in Tea Room, proposed, *July 8*, 30.

Irish National Schools damaged by Storm —Provision of Funds for Repair of, *July 21*, 1303.

Estates Commissioners
see Irish Land Bill.

Evans, Mr. S. [Glamorganshire, Mid]
Appointments to the Army from the Militia—New Regulations with regard to—Nature of Entrance Examination, *July 22*, 1439.

London Education Bill, *July 14*, 629; *July 15*, 741, 760, 786, 790, 801, 810.

Uganda Railway Accounts — Laying Annual Statement of Accounts before the House, proposed -Visits paid to Line by Members of Railway Committee—Publication of Reports, proposed, *July 15*, 698.

Evening Continuation Schools

Ireland—Doning (Galway) School, Delay in Payment of Fees, Cause of.
Q. Mr. Duffy; *A.* Mr. Wyndham, *July 9*, 158.

Evening Schools

see London Education Bill.

Evicted Tenants

see Irish Land Bill.

Evictions, Ireland

Irish Land Bill—Provision in Bill, for Claims of Evicted Tenants to receive Priority in Proceedings of Estates Commission.
Q. Mr. Delany; *A.* Mr. Wyndham, *July 16*, 869.

Notices of Eviction, Number filed—Return presented, *July 21*, 1248, 1297.

Executions

Extorted Confessions at—Duty of Chaplain.
Q. Colonel W. Murray; *A.* Mr. Akers Douglas, *July 16*, 851.

Statutory Rule with regard to extorting Confession from Condemned Prisoner—Alteration of Rule proposed.
Q. Mr. H. D. Greene; *A.* Mr. Akers Douglas, *July 16*, 850.

Exeter Corporation Bill

c. con. July 22*, 1429.

Expiring Laws Continuance Bill

c. 1R.* *July 15*, 710.

Factories and Workshops

Iron and Steel Foundries, Scotland—Extension of special exception as to meal-hours in—Order Presented, *July 16*, 819, 840.

Fardell, Sir G. [Paddington, S.]

Metropolitan Boroughs, Superannuation Allowance to Servants of, granting of—Sanction of Local Government Board, *July 21*, 1306.

Farquharson, Dr. [Aberdeenshire, West]

Parliamentary Procedure, New Rules of—Opportunity for debating New Rules as yet undebated—Granting of Select Committee of Inquiry proposed, *July 9*, 163.

Farrell, Mr. J. P. [Longford, North]]

Appeals in County Longford—Reduction of number of, Reason for, *July 9*, 143.

Belturbet Rent Collector surcharged by Local Government Auditor—Circumstances of Case—Examination of Rent Books proposed, *July 21*, 1318.

County Longford, Estates for Sale in, Number of, *July 8*, 10.

Cusack Estate, County Longford—Precautions against taking of farms, pending completion of arrangements for Sale to tenants—Settlement of planters on property alleged, *July 10*, 310.

Farrell, Mr. J. P.—*cont.*

Gordon-Bennett Motor Race—Telegraphic Arrangements, Breakdown of—Provision of extra staff at Dublin, etc. *July 8*, 29.

Irish Land Bill (*Committee*), *July 8*, 44.

Irish Telegraphic Delays, Cause of, *July 8*, 30.

Law in Ireland, Administration of Criminal Law against Members of the House, *July 20*, 1219.

Rebates under the Finance Acts in Ireland, Payments of, *July 9*, 144.

St. Mel's Cathedral, Ardagh—Steps to preserve Ancient Ruins, *July 8*, 10.

Superannuated Irish Medical Officers—Number Superannuated, Number of Cases in which Grants were voluntarily made, etc., *July 10*, 310.

Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn—*Lord of the Treasury* [Hunts, Ramsey]

Agricultural Labourers, Wages of, during last fifty years—No Official Information available with regard to, *July 15*, 691.

Cattle Railway Transit—Humane Cattle Cars—Alleged refusal of Railway Companies to adopt Car, *July 8*, 24.

Fewston (Yorkshire) Glebe Lands, Sale of—Approval of Land Commissioners—Sale in Compliance with the Glebe Lands Act, 1888—Inquiry of Sanitary Authority with regard to Sale, etc., *July 14*, 569.

Ferguson, Mr. Munro [Leith Burghs]

Licensing Act (Scotland) Consolidation and Amendment Bill, *July 13*, 423, 425, 438, 454, 475, 504, 508; *July 22*, 1520, 1524.

Naval Works Bill, *July 10*, 353.

Permanent Garrison in South Africa—Necessity for Improvements in Intelligence Department—Question of Quick-firing Guns, *July 16*, 924.

Fergusson, Sir J. [Manchester, N.E.]

Buckingham Palace, Works proceeding in front of, Nature of, *July 21*, 1320.

Licensing Acts (Scotland) Consolidation and Amendment Bill, *July 13*, 425, 437, 443, 456, 478, 507; *July 21*, 1414.

Scottish Public Lunatic Asylum Officials—Granting Superannuation Allowances to, proposed, *July 13*, 388.

Feversham, Earl of

Motor Cars Bill (*Committee*), *July 17*, 996.

Fewston (Yorkshire)

Glebe Lands, Sale of—Approval of Land Commissioners given to, Sale in Compliance with the Glebe Lands Act, 1888—Inquiry of Sanitary Authority with regard to Sale, etc.
Q. Mr. Duncan; *A.* Mr. A. Fellowes, *July 14*, 569.

Field, Mr. W. [Dublin, St. Patrick]

Army Officers — Married Non-Commissioned Officers and Officers detached from their Regiments, Refusal of Option of Money in lieu of Rations to—Inquiry proposed, *July 16*, 856.

Cattle Railway Transit—Humane Cattle Cars — Refusal to use such Cars alleged—Inquiry into question of Live Stock Land Transit, proposed, *July 8*, 24.

Contempt of Court—Fresh Legislation proposed, *July 21*, 1302.

Ireland—Proposed Introduction of Legislation to amend present Law—No promise possible with regard to introduction during present Session, *July 8*, 32.

Cotton Trust, Effect of on Cotton Industry —Number and Wages of Employees out of work through Closing of Mills, *July 8*, 16.

Fiscal Inquiry — Preferential Railway Rates for Foreign Produce—Inclusion in Injury of Question of, *July 8*, 22.

Income Tax Returns — Simplification of Forms and Modification of System of Basing Income Tax Assessments on Future Profits, *July 8*, 23.

Irish Income Tax Appeals—Issue of Instructions for hearing of Appeals in absence of previous Returns, proposed, *July 8*, 29.

Irish Land Bill (*Committee*), *July 17*, 1057.

Persons Dishoused by Ground Landlords—Extension to Ground Landlords of Arrangement similar to that made Railway Companies, proposed, *July 14*, 565.

Royal Visit to Ireland—Work at Dublin Castle entrusted to English Firms—Reason for exclusion of Irish Firms, *July 14*, 570.

Terminable Leaseholds—Opportunity for Discussion of Measure to remedy defects under present System of Tenure, *July 8*, 32.

Tobacco-growing in Ireland, *July 20*, 1218.

Town Holdings Committee—Appointment of, to consider Question of Terminable Leaseholds, proposed, *July 21*, 1320.

Fife Electric Power Bill

l. con. July 16*, 839.
c. 3R.* *July 29*, 1129.

Fifeshire

Lochgelly, Outbreak of Typhoid at—Inquiry proposed.
Q. Mr. J. Hope; *A.* Mr. Akers Douglas, *July 9*, 154.

Pollution of Rivers in—Inquiry into pollution of Black Devon, proposed.
Q. Mr. E. Wason; *A.* Mr. A. G. Murray, *July 21*, 1316.

Fiji

Administration of—Appointment of independent Commission to Report on, proposed.
Q. Mr. C. Wason; *A.* Mr. J. Chamberlain, *July 14*, 575.

Financial Relations between England and Ireland

Payments of Rebates under the Finance Acts.
Q. Mr. J. P. Farrell; *A.* Mr. Ritchie, *July 9*, 144.

Finlay, Sir R.—*Attorney-General* [Inverness Burghs]

Terminable Leaseholds—Proposed Introduction of Measure to Safeguard Property paid for by Terminable Leaseholders, *July 22*, 1450.

Firearms

Ireland.

Refusal of Licence to P. Courane, Castlemaine—Grounds for Refusal.
Q. Mr. T. O'Donnell; *A.* Mr. Wyndham, *July 13*, 410.

Refusal of Licence to E. Treston Gort, Co. Galway—Reason for Refusal.
Q. Mr. Duffy; *A.* Mr. Wyndham, *July 9*, 158.

Fiscal Policy

Inquiry.

Advice or Information required from Treasury.
Q. Sir C. M'Laren; *A.* Mr. A. J. Balfour, *July 20*, 1158.

Board of Trade Statistics relative to Exports and Imports—Basis of Valuation.
Q. Sir C. M'Laren; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour, *July 20*, 1146.

British Shipping and Foreign Protective Systems—Inclusion of Questions of, relating to, within scope of Inquiry.
Q. Mr. C. M'Arthur; *A.* Mr. A. J. Balfour, *July 9*, 161.

Conclusion of, during present Session, Communication of result of.
Q. Mr. Soames; *A.* Mr. A. J. Balfour, *July 13*, 415.

Connection of Local Government Board with.
Q. Mr. D. A. Thomas; *A.* Mr. W. Long, *July 16*, 853.

Engagement of Home Office in Response to Appeal for Relief of Distress in 1842.
Q. Mr. D. A. Thomas; *A.* Mr. Akers Douglas, *July 22*, 1431.

Establishment of Fiscal Union between Mother Country and Self-Governing Colonies.
Q. Mr. Mansfield; *A.* Mr. A. J. Balfour, *July 14*, 583.

[*cont.*

Fiscal Policy—*cont.*
Inquiry—*cont.*
Fisheries—Inclusion in Inquiry of question of Re-imposition of the Fish Duties.
Q. Mr. G. Bowles; *A.* Mr. Ritchie, *July 8*, 19.
Hostile Tariffs of Foreign Countries or British Colonies—Publication of Information with regard to, proposed.
Q. Lord Heneage; *A.* Duke of Devonshire, *July 13*, 379.
Inclusion in Inquiry to Question of Transit of Canadian Corn through America, and of American Corn through Canada.
Q. Sir E. Vincent; *A.* Mr. A. J. Balfour, *July 21*, 1306.
Inclusion in Inquiry of Question of Transport.
Q. Sir E. Vincent; *A.* Mr. A. J. Balfour, *July 21*, 1306.
Inclusion in Inquiry of Expediency of Establishing an Imperial Council of Representatives of Mother Country and Self-Governing Colonies.
Q. Mr. Black; *A.* Mr. A. J. Balfour, *July 14*, 584.
Inclusion in Inquiry of necessity of instituting Legislation to secure a Minimum Wage.
Q. Mr. Mansfield; *A.* Mr. A. J. Balfour, *July 14*, 583.
Inclusion in Inquiry of question of Colonial Contributions to the Defence of the Empire, proposed.
Q. Dr. Macnamara; *A.* Mr. A. J. Balfour, *July 8*, 21.
Inclusion of Question of retaliating upon Colonial tariffs upon British goods.
Q. Mr. T. Taylor; *A.* Mr. A. J. Balfour, *July 15*, 705.
Inclusion, within scope of Inquiry, of Question of—Effect upon British Agriculture of proposed Increase in price of Corn.
Q. Mr. Soares; *A.* Mr. A. J. Balfour, *July 8*, 21.
Instructions given and Public Departments in connection with giving Information for Inquiry, to which departments given, etc.
Qs. Mr. J. Ellis; *As.* Mr. A. J. Balfour, *July 13*, 415.
Mode of holding Inquiry.
Q. Mr. A. Davies; *A.* Mr. A. J. Balfour, *July 16*, 863.
Most-favoured nation Treatment—Effect of Imposition of Import Duties.
Q. Mr. Black; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour, *July 22*, 1447.
Opportunity for Discussion of, previous to close of Session.
Q. Sir M. Hicks Beach; *A.* Mr. A. J. Balfour, *July 15*, 706.

Fiscal Policy—*cont.*
Inquiry—*cont.*
Pay of Government Employees—Inclusion of Inquiry of consideration of higher pay of Government Employees.
Q. Mr. Weir; *A.* Mr. A. J. Balfour, *July 20*, 1157.
Preferential Railway Rates for Foreign Produce—Inclusion in Inquiry of Question of.
Q. Mr. Field; *A.* Mr. B. Law, *July 8*, 22.
Republication of Parliamentary Paper, No. 299, of Session of 1825, proposed.
Q. Mr. D. A. Thomas; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour, *July 17*, 1028.
Returns supplied by Board of Trade and Customs Department different from or in excess of those usually published—Placing forms of such Returns on Order Paper of House of Commons.
Q. Mr. Lough; *A.* Mr. A. J. Balfour, *July 20*, 1158.
Taking evidence of Representatives of Co-operative Societies.
Q. Sir W. Lawson; A. Mr. A. J. Balfour, *July 15*, 704.

Fish.
Cold Storage for—Establishment of cold storage chambers at Fishing Ports and improved Methods of Preservation of Fresh Fish—Opinion of Experts, proposed.
Q. Mr. Weir; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour, *July 15*, 700.
Destruction of Fish at Billingsgate and Aberdeen—Total amount destroyed in England and Scotland during 1902.
Q. Mr. Pirie; *A.* Mr. Bonar Law, *July 8*, 17.

Fisheries
Boats, Tonnage of—Inconvenience caused to Fishermen by adoption of Rules for ascertaining tonnage of boats.
Q. Mr. C. Wason; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour, *July 13*, 391.
Fiscal Inquiry, Inclusion in Inquiry of Question of Re-imposition of Fish Duties.
Q. Mr. G. Bowles; *A.* Mr. Ritchie, *July 8*, 19.
Ireland—Castletown Berehaven Fishing Industry — Establishment of Herring Curing Stations and Herring Markets proposed.
Q. Mr. Gilhooley; *A.* Mr. Wyndham, *July 9*, 157.
Shannon Fisheries—Amount paid by Board of Works to fishery owners —Upholding of fishing rights.
Q. Mr. Joyce; *A.* Mr. Wyndham, *July 20*, 1154.

Fisheries—*cont.*
Scotland—Fishing Boats, Crew Space on—Deductions for Sanitary Accommodation.
Q. Mr. Black; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour, *July 20*, 1133.
Inquiry relative to Herring Fishery in the Firth of Clyde—Report presented, *July 9*, 128, 137.
Orkney — Petition from County Council for carrying out recommendations of Fisheries Commissioner.
Q. Mr. C. Wason; *A.* Mr. A. G. Murray, *July 9*, 138.
Sea Fisheries—Orders for Grants, 1902-1903—Board of Trade Report under Act of 1868, Presented, *July 21*, 1249, 1297.

Fishguard and Rosslare Railways and Harbours Bill
c. Lords Amendts. con. July 9*, 133.
l. Royal Assent, *July 21*, 1246.

Fishing Industry
see Scotland.

Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmund [Wiltshire, Cricklade]
Education Act. Operation of—Responsibilities of the County Councils—Physical aspects of Education—Ventilation of Schools—System of Pupil Teachers—Suggested connection with Universities—Importance of Literary Training—Grants to Company Schools, *July 9*, 199.
London Education Bill, *July 14*, 667; *July 15*, 779.

Fitzgerald, Mrs.
Alleged Assault on, nature of offence—Inquiry into case proposed.
Q. Mr. W. Abraham; *A.* Mr. Wyndham, *July 16*, 842.

Fitzgerald, Sir Robert [Cambridge]
Irish Land Bill (*Committee*), *July 17*, 1052.

Flavin, Mr. [Kerry, N.]
Irish Land Bill (*Committee*), *July 8*, 46, 47, 69, 114; *July 17*, 1040.
Munster, Representation of, on Congested Districts Board, in event of vacancy on Board, *July 13*, 408.

Flower, Mr. E. [Bradford, W.]
Cable Charges between India and China, Reduction of, proposed, *July 16*, 867.
Female Prisoners—Laundry and Cookery Lessons for, proposed—Reconsideration of appointment of Female Prison Inspectors, *July 15*, 686.
Glucose, Rebate on, allowed on imported glucose and refused to glucose manufacturers in this country, alleged, *July 13*, 404.

Flynn, Mr. [Cork Co., N.]
Irish Land Bill (*Committee*), *July 8*, 41; *July 17*, 1046.
Model Schools, Working of, *July 20*, 1211.
Prosecution for Carts without Owner's name thereon—Case of Mr. D. Buckley—Impartial carrying out of requirements of law by the Police, *July 13*, 395.

Food
Imports from the Colonies and Foreign Countries—Total Value of, Value of Home Supply.
Q. Mr. Seely; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour, *July 22*, 1434.

Foreshore Rights
see Irish Land Bill.

Foster, Sir Michael [London University]
London Education Bill, *July 14*, 654; *July 15*, 762, 777.
Water—Sterilisation of Water for Troops in the Field—Results of testing scheme of sterilisation, *July 13*, 395.

Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir H. [Wolverhampton East]
Ecclesiastical Commissioners Bill—Intentions with regard to proceeding with Bill, *July 20*, 1160.
Statistical Abstracts—Date of publication, *July 8*, 7.

France
Wheat, Prices of, Duty on Imported Wheat.
Q. Mr. Harris; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour, *July 15*, 699.

Francis & Son, Messrs., Deptford
Army Contracts—Alleged infringement of Fair Wage Resolution.
Q. Captain Norton; *A.* Mr. Brodrick, *July 21*, 1305.

Franco-Spanish Alliance
Information with regard to, conditions of alliance, etc.
Q. Mr. G. Bowles; *A.* Mr. A. J. Balfour, *July 22*, 1450.

Frinton-on-Sea Sea Defences Bill
c. 3R.* *July 13*, 385.
l. Royal Assent, *July 21*, 1246.

Fuller, Mr. [Wiltshire, Westbury]
Military Works (Consolidated Fund), *July 21*, 1396.
Porthcawl Rifle Range—Utilisation of, for field-firing, *July 16*, 861.

Gainsborough
Vaccination Prosecutions at—Action of Officers—Support of Action by Local Government Board proposed.
Q. Mr. S. Ormsby-Gore; *A.* Mr. W. Long, *July 13*, 392.

Galloway Mr. [Manchester, S.W.]
Licensing Acts (Scotland) Consolidation and Amendment Bill, *July 13*, 424, 425, 435; *July 21*, 1400, 1420.
Patriotic Fund—Action of Secretary—Introducing Bill dealing with Patriotic Commission during present session, *July 15*, 704.
Patriotic Fund—Bill put down for day allotted to Supply, *July 20*, 1163.

Galway
Doning Evening Continuation School—Delay in payment of fees, cause of.
Q. Mr. Duffy; *A.* Mr. Wyndham, *July 9*, 158.

Gardner, Mr. E. [Berks, Wokingham]
Parchment Coffee-Husk—Value of Imports during 1902—Country from which imported, etc., *July 8*, 8.

Gateshead Corporation Bill
l. Com. July 13*, 374.

Gas and Water Orders Confirmation Bill
Return Presented, *July 8*, 3.

Gas and Water Works Facilities Act, 1870.
Report of Board of Trade, as to dispensing with consent of the Farnborough Urban District Council in the case of the Aldershot Gas and Water Provisional Order, Presented, *July 13*, 375, 387.

Gas Orders Confirmation (No. 1) Bill
Return Presented, *July 8*, 3.
c. Rep.* *July 17*, 1023.
3R.* *July 20*, 1130.

Gas Orders Confirmation (No. 2) Bill
Return Presented, *July 8*, 3.
c. Rep.* *July 17*, 1023.
Com. July 20*, 1130.
3 R.* *July 21*, 1295.

Germany
Commercial Relations with Great Britain and British Colonies. Correspondence Presented, *July 10*, 271, 306.
Commercial Treaty—Papers relative to—denunciation of Commercial Treaty—Reason for their not being presented.
Q. Mr. E. Robertson. *A.* Lord Cranborne, *July 13*, 403.
Trade.
German Exports to Canada—Canadian Exports to Germany for 1897 and 1902—Value of Total extra duty on Canadian Exports.
Q. Mr. Black. *A.* Mr. J. Chamberlain, *July 16*, 864.
Imposition without any retaliatory Duties on German Goods entering Great Britain — Statement of British Ambassador at Berlin with regard to Authority for Statement.
Q. Mr. Black. *A.* Mr. A. J. Balfour, *July 16*, 863.

Gibbs, Mr. Alban [London.]
Employment of Children Bill, *July 22*, 1559.
London Education Bill, *July 14*, 594, 596; *July 15*, 760.

Gibbs, Mr. Vicary [Hertfordshire, St. Albans]
Education, By-laws concerning Religious, *July 9*, 205, 230.

Gibraltar
see Naval Works Bill.

Gilhooly, Mr. J. [Cork Co., West]
Castletown Berehaven Fishing Industry—Establishment of Herring Curing Stations and Herring Markets, proposed, *July 9*, 157.
Munster, Representation of, on Congested Districts Board, in event of vacancy on Board, *July 13*, 408.
Teachers in Ireland, Classification of, *July 20*, 1213.

Glasgow
University — Annual Financial Report Presented, *July 17*, 975, 1024.

Glasgow Corporation (Police) Order Confirmation Bill
l. 2R.* *July 14*, 518.
l. 3R.* *July 16*, 819.
c. 1R.* *July 17*, 1023.

Glasgow Corporation Tramways Order Confirmation Bill
l. 2R.* *July 14*, 518.
3R.* *July 21*, 1248.

Glucose
Rebate on, allowed on imported glucose and refused to glucose manufacturers in this country, alleged.
Qs. Mr. Flower; *As.* Mr. Ritchie, *July 13*, 404.

Gold Coast
Spirit Licences to Natives, Report as to issue of, number issued, Regulations with regard to issue.
Q. Sir J. Kennaway; *A.* Mr. J. Chamberlain, *July 10*, 307.

Gordon, Mr. [Londonderry, S.]
Irish Land Bill (*Committee*), *July 8*, 46.

Gordon Highlanders
Band of 1st Battalion Gordon Higlanders—Performance stopped at Southport, Authority for action.
Q. Mr. H. Hall; *A.* Mr. Brodrick, *July 16*, 857.

Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir J. [Cambridge University]
Cambridge Day Training College—Payment of increased grants to students of College who are members of the University Colleges, *July 8*, 5.

Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir J.—*cont.*
Education Department, Plans passed by, *July 9*, 262.
Elementary Schools, Limit of size, Schools to which sanction has been given to exceed prescribed limit, *July 9*, 140.
London Education Bill, *July 14*, 605, 654; *July 15*, 714, 787.
New Poor Law Schools at Poplar, Sanction of Local Government Board to proposed expenditure on erection of, *July 16*, 853.
Norwood Poor Law Schools, Illness at, Report of Medical Officer on, Expenditure on Schools sanctioned by Local Government Board, Publication of Report proposed, *July 16*, 852.
Schools above Ordinary Limits of Accommodation—Places at which sanctioned, numbers of scholars, reason for which sanction given, *July 13*, 393.
Schools, Pupil Teachers in, *July 9*, 113, 219.
School Teachers, Training of—Advantages of connection with the Universities—Working of the Education Act—Duties of the Councils—Expenditure on Secondary Education—Waste on Elementary Education—Physical condition of School Children—Ventilation of Schools—Caning in Schools—Question of Inspection, *July 9*, 190, 243, 247, 264.

Gort
Gun Licence, Refused to E. Treston—Reason for refusal.
Q. Mr. Duffy. *A.* Mr. Wyndham. *July 9*, 158.

Goschen, Viscount
Imports and Exports. Excess of British Imports over Exports. Estimate of, to what causes due, *July 14*, 558.
India and the South African Garrison, Proposal to place portion of cost of on Revenues of India, Attitude of Committee of Imperial Defence towards scheme, Arguments in favour of scheme, *July 20*, 1115.
Preferential Tariffs, *July 10*, 297.

Gosport and Fareham Tramways Bill
c. Rep.* *July 21*, 1295.
c. 2R.* *com.* *July 14*, 562.

Government Departments
Committee to consider position and duties of Government Departments—Position with regard to formation of.
Q. Mr. Hoult; *A.* Mr. Ritchie, *July 16*, 867.

Granard
Workhouse Nurses—Inquiry, Notes of evidence, Laying on Table of, proposed.
Q. Mr. T. M. Healy; *A.* Mr. Wyndham, *July 8*, 28.

Granby, Marquess of
Military Lands Bill, *July 21*, 1251.
Motor Cars Bill, *July 14*, 523.
(*Committee*), *July 17*, 997, 1011; *July 21*, 1270, 1288.
Outdoor Relief (Pensioner's) Bill, *July 16*, 834.

Gray, Mr. Ernest [West Ham, N.]
Education Act, Operation of — Work carried out by the County Councils—Regulations concerning Secondary Education—Training of Teachers—Position of Pupil Teachers—Inordinate size of Schools—Work after leaving School — Inspection of Schools — System of individual examination, *July 9*, 221, 246.
London Education Bill, *July 14*, 648, 652, 658, 666.
Students in University Hostels, Grants to—Declaration of First Lord of the Treasury with regard to giving effect to, by Board of Education, *July 8*, 4.

Graziers (Irish)
see Irish Land Bill.

Great Northern, Piccadilly, and Brompton Railway (Various Powers) Bill
l. Rep.* *July 16*, 817.

Great Northern Railway Bill
l. 3R.* *July 13*, 374.
c. *Lords' Amendments con.* *July 17*, 1021.
l. Royal Assent, *July 21*, 1246.

Great Southern and Western Railway Bill
l. Rep.* *July 14*, 517.
l. 3R.* *July 21*, 1247.

Great Western Railway Bill
l. Rep.* *July 16*, 817.

Greene, Mr. H. D. [Shrewsbury]
Executions—Statutory Rule with regard to Extorting Confession from Condemned Prisoner—Alteration of Rule proposed, *July 16*, 850.
Metropolitan Magistrates, Increase in number of, proposed, *July 14*, 569.

Gretton, Mr. [Derbyshire, S.]
Licensing Acts (Scotland) Consolidation and Amendment Bill, *July 13*, 438, 482, 495; *July 21*, 1409; *July 22*, 1514, 1518, 1529, 1530.
Military Works (Consolidated Fund), *July 21*, 1392.

Griffin, James, late Royal Garrison Regiment
Granting Army Pension to, proposed.
Q. Mr. Joyce; *A.* Lord Stanley, *July 8*, 13.

Griffith, Mr. E. [Anglesey]
Beaumaris County School, Financial Difficulties of—Assistance of Board of Education, *July 14*, 568.

Grindleford, Baslow, and Bakewell Railway Bill
c. *Lords' Amendments, con.* July 14*, 562.
l. Royal Assent, *July 21*, 1246.

Groves, Mr. [Salford, S.]
Licensing Acts (Scotland) Consolidation and Amendment Bill, *July 13*, 426, 478, 481, 503, 507 ; *July 21*, 1404.

Guest, Mr. [Plymouth]
War Office Reforms—Intelligence Department—Army Corps in South Africa—Recruiting, *July 16*, 957.

Guinea Postal Orders Bill
l. Royal Assent, *July 21*, 1245.

Gunnery
see Naval Works Bill.

Habitual Offenders
Punishment of, Amendment of Law during present session.
Q. Mr. Talbot ; *A.* Mr. Akers Douglas, *July 16*, 850.

Hainault Forest Bill
l. com. July 14*, 517.

Haldane, Rt. Hon. R. B. [Haddington]
Canadian Cattle, Importation into United Kingdom—Obstacles placed in way of by H.M. Government—Remonstrances of Canadian Government, *July 8*, 13.
Canadian Cattle imported into United States—Number and Value of—Rate of import duty, *July 8*, 13.
Licensing Acts (Scotland)—Consolidation and Amendment Bill, *July 21*, 1411.

Hall, Mr. M. [Lancashire, Southport]
Gordon Highlanders (1st Battalion) Band, Performance stopped at Southport—Authority for Action, *July 16*, 857.
Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway—Steps to secure safety of travelling public previous to completion of electrification of portion of line, *July 21*, 1299.

Halsbury, Earl of, *Lord Chancellor*
County Courts Jurisdiction Extension Bill, *July 16*, 826.
Incest Bill, *July 16*, 822.
Licensing Act Amendment Bill, *July 14*, 522.
Motor-Cars Bill (*Committee*), *July 17*, 983, 985 ; *July 21*, 1289.

Hamilton, Rt. Hon. Lord G., *Secretary of State for India* [Middlesex, Ealing]
British Garrison in South Africa—Proposed Charge on Indian Revenue for Maintenance of, *July 20*, 1136.
Cooper's Hill College—Consultation with Indian Government previous to decision as to future of College, *July 13*, 393.

Hamilton, Rt. Hon. Lord G.—*cont.*
Eastern Bengal Railway—Alleged Detention of Sirdar and Coolies on—No information with regard to, *July 22*, 1432.
India—Area under Crops in, for 1901–1902, etc., *July 16*, 846.
Indian Agricultural Banks—Committee Report, to be laid on Table at early date, *July 9*, 137.
Indian Currency—Amount of Gold Currency Reserves in India and England, *July 16*, 845.
Indian Irrigation Commission—Report not yet received, *July 16*, 844.
Indian Savings Bank Deposits, Increase of—Number and Class of Depositors, *July 16*, 844.
Indian State Canals, Capitalised Value of, *July 16*, 844.
Irrigation in India by State Canals—Area Irrigated by Canals for years 1891–1892, 1901–1902, *July 9*, 137.
Madras Workhouse, Location of within precincts of the Presidency Gaol—Persons detained under European Vagrancy Act to be accommodated in other than Penitentiary Premises—*July 22*, 1433.
Motor Car Transport in India—No information on subject of, *July 16*, 847.
Tibet, Roads in—Improvement of Trade Routes near Siliguri, *July 13*, 402.
Tibet, Trade with—Meeting of British and Chinese Commissioners to arrange for Improved Trade Facilities, *July 13*, 402.

Hamilton Burgh Provisional Order Bill
l. Royal Assent, *July 21*, 1245.

Hampden, Viscount
Motor Cars Bill (*Committee*), *July 21*, 1285.

Hampton Court Gas Bill
l. Royal Assent, *July 21*, 1246.

Hanging Gate Rent
see Irish Land Bill.

Hardie, Mr. Keir [Merthyr Tydvil]
Army Rations condemned at Pretoria—Rations supplied by same Firms as those condemned previously at Pretoria—Condemned on previous occasion since 1899—Name of Firms, Quantities condemned, etc., *July 16*, 862.
Army Rations Destroyed at Pretoria. Report of Board Officers. Carrying out recommendations of, with regard to recovery of cost from Contractors, etc., *July 14*, 572.
India, Defence of—Provisions at Pretoria destroyed — Deficiencies in Army rations, *July 16*, 959.

Hardwicke, Earl of—*Under Secretary of State for War.*

India and the South African Garrison. Proposal to place portion of cost of, on Revenue of India. Nature of Scheme—Desirability of full consideration of, proposal by Indian Government—Necessity of taking steps for protection of North-West Frontier. Justification of proposal of His Majesty's Government, *July 20*, 1102.

Military Lands Bill, *July 21*, 1251.

Volunteer Rifle Ranges. Return relative to distribution of sum allocated for, to be published at early date, *July 17*, 1019.

Harmsworth, Mr.

Physical Training in Scotland. Recommendation of Royal Commission as to adding medical experts to inspecting Staff of Scotch Education Department. Decision with regard to carrying out of, *July 13*, 389.

Harris, Lord

Military Lands Bill, *July 21*, 1254.

Motor-Cars Bill (*Committee*), *July 17*, 1011.

Harris, Mr. F. L. [Tynemouth]

Wheat, Prices of, in France and United Kingdom. Duty in France on imported wheat, *July 15*, 699.

Harwood, Mr. [Bolton]

Orphan and Deserted Children, Number of, *July 9*, 143.

Suakim-Berber Railway—Construction of, Consideration of project, *July 9*, 139.

War Office Canteens, Management of, *July 16*, 928.

Hastings Harbour District Railway Bill

c. 2R.* *Com.* *July 14*, 563.

Hastings Tramways (Extensions) Bill

l. Royal Assent, *July 21*, 1246.

Hay, Mr. C. [Shoreditch, Hoxton]

Customs Assistant Clerks, Extension of Annual Leave, proposed, *July 16*, 854.

Rotten Row Ambulances. Establishment of ambulance at West end of Row, Adoption of Police for St. John's Ambulances, proposed, *July 8*, 25.

Hayden, Mr. [Roscommon, S.]

Irish Land Bill (*Committee*), *July 8*, 98.

Mullingar Rifle Range, Extension of. Approval of Military Authorities—Delay in proceeding with work, Cause of, *July 21*, 1304.

Hayter, Sir A. [Walsall]

Decentralisation, Request for information concerning — Remount Department. *July 16*, 956.

Head Rents

See Irish Land Bill.

Healy, Mr. T. M. [Louth, N.]

Ad valorem Stamp Duty on Authorised Capital. Refusal to allow payment to remain in abeyance until Capital has been raised. Effect upon investments in Irish enterprises. *July 10*, 307.

Agriculture and Technical Instruction Department, Ireland. Return of Grants made, proposed, *July 21*, 1303.

Granard Workhouse Nurses Inquiry. Notes of evidence, Laying on Table of, proposed. *July 8*, 28.

Irish Equivalent Grant, Account taken of Population of London in calculating amount of, *July 20*, 1155.

Irish National Schools. - Committee on Revision of Plans of, Nature of Report —Communication of the Managers, etc., *July 21*, 1303.

Irish Land Bill (*Committee*), *July 8*, 37 43, 57, 75, 91 ; *July 17*, 1029, 1031, 1040, 1043, 1051, 1052, 1060, 1062, 1069, 1074, 1076, 1080, 1082, 1083, 1084, 1087.
(3R.) *July 21*, 1368.

National Education in Ireland—Deficiencies in the System—Position of National Board, *July 20*, 1198.

Heaton, Mr. Henniker [Canterbury]

Retired Army Officers, Employment of. Declaration required from officer on retired pay to the effect that he holds no position of profit, previous to receiving allowance. Date of order enforcing declaration, abolition of, proposed, *July 14*, 574.

Helme, Mr. [Lancashire, Lancaster]

Sadler, Resignation of Mr., *July 9*, 256.

Hemphill, Mr. [Tyrone, N.]

Irish Land Bill (*Committee*) *July 8*, 110, 112 ; *July 17*, 1060.

Heneage, Lord

Fiscal Inquiry. Hostile Tariffs of Foreign Countries or British Colonies. Publication of Information with regard to, proposed, *July 13*, 379.

Motor-Cars Bill, *July 14*, 557.
Motor-Cars Bill (*Committee*), *July 17*, 980, 999, 1013, 1015 ; *July 21*, 1269, 1270, 1284.

Motor Cars Prosecution under Section 5 of the Summary Jurisdiction Act, *July 21*, 1293.

Herries, Lord

Motor-Cars Bill (*Committee*), *July 17*, 990, 1010.

Hexham Gas Bill

c. 3R.* *July 9*, 133.
l. Royal Assent, *July 21*, 1246.

Hickman, Sir A. [Wolverhampton, W.]

Public Health Acts Amendment Bill—Date of Introduction, *July 8*, 6.

Return Home of Regiments having served through South African War, *July 16*, 856.

Hides

Imports from Australian Colonies, largeness of imposition of duty on hides from foreign countries.
Q. Mr. Black ; *A.* Mr. J. Chamberlain, *July 22*, 1443.

Highland and Invergarry and Fort Augustus Railway Companies Bill

*c. Lords' Aments. con.** *July 10*, 303.
l. Royal Assent, *July 21*, 1246.

Highland Crofters

See Scotland.

Highlands

Weaving Industry—Encouragement given to, by Congested Districts Board, effect on production of goods.
Q. Mr. Weir ; *A.* Mr. G. Murray. *July 21*, 1316.

Hobhouse, Mr. Charles [Bristol, E.]

War Office Appointments and Promotion—Permanent Garrison in South Africa—Information requested concerning future policy in Somaliland, *July 16*, 885.

Hobhouse, Mr. Henry [Somersetshire, E.]

London Education Bill, *July 14*, 638 ; *July 15*, 717.

Motor-Car Tyres, Regulation of size of. Authority empowered to make regulations, etc., *July 13*, 392.

Holland, Sir W.

Cotton Trade, Cause of slackness in.—Deficiency of Raw Cotton—increasing imports of raw material, *July 21*, 1299.

German Markets and Countries adopting Retaliatory Fiscal Policy. Preference in German Market to Countries adopting Retaliatory Fiscal Policy, *July 22*, 1434.

Home Office

Fiscal Inquiry—Engagement of Home Office in.
Q. Mr. D. A. Thomas ; *A.* Mr. Akers Douglas, *July 22*, 1431.

Home Rule

See Irish Land Bill.

Hong Kong

see Naval Works Bill.

Governorship of—Appointment of Governor with wide experience, proposed.
Q. Mr. Weir ; *A.* Mr. J. Chamberlain, *July 16*, 865.

Plague in—Order permitting Treatment of Plague Patients in their Homes. Reconsideration of, proposed.
Q. Mr. Weir ; *A.* Mr. J. Chamberlain, *July 21*, 1311.

Post Office—Plans for New Post Office, Acceptance of, Date of Commencement of Building.
Q. Mr. Weir ; *A.* Mr. J. Chamberlain, *July 21*, 1312.

Hong Kong—*cont.*

Post Office—Delay in Erection of New Post Office, Cause of.
Q. Mr. Weir ; *A.* Mr. J. Chamberlain, *July 16*, 865.

Hope, Mr. J. D. [Fife, West]

Lochgelly (Fifeshire) — Outbreak of Typhoid at—Inquiry proposed, *July 9*, 154.

Horses

Horse Breeding—Report of Royal Commission with Appendices, Presented, *July 15*, 685.

Horse Breeding—Report of Royal Commission, Presented, *July 16*, 819.

Hoult, Mr. [Cheshire, Wirrall]

British Imports and Exports during last Seventy Years—Return of Total Value proposed, *July 8*, 17.

Government Departments—Committee to consider position and duties of—Position with regard to Formation of, *July 16*, 867.

Roumania, Trade Interests in—Appointment of Trade Expert, proposed, *July 22*, 1446.

Trade with Roumania—Negotiations with German Government for New Commercial Treaty—Decrease in British Trade with Roumania, etc., *July 16*, 866.

Housing of the Working Classes

Introduction of Bill dealing with, Date of.
Q. Dr. Macnamara ; *A.* Mr. A. J. Balfour, *July 8*, 33.

Persons dishoused by Ground Landlords—Extension to Ground Landlords of arrangements similar to that made with Railway Companies, proposed.
Q. Mr. Field ; *A.* Mr. W. Long, *July 14*, 565.

Hove, Worthing, and District Tramways Bill

c. Rep.* *July 21*, 1295.

Humphreys-Owen, Mr. [Montgomeryshire]

London Education Bill, *July 15*, 779.

Clergy—Poverty of—Administration of Ecclesiastical Funds—Appointment of Royal Commission of Inquiry into, *July 20*, 1160.

Colonial Competition with British Industries—Protection of British Producers, *July 20*, 1157.

Huntly, Marquess of

Motor-Cars Bill (*Committee*) *July 17*, 999.

Hutchinson, Dr. [Sussex, Rye]

Woolwich Royal Arsenal—Proximity of Danger Buildings to Gun-firing Ground — Official responsible for Selection of Site, etc., *July 13*, 398.

London Education Bill, *July 14*, 642.

Hutton, Mr. Alfred [Yorkshire, W. R., Morley]
Education Act, Schemes of Councils under — Management of Secondary Schools—Protest against Government System of Examination—Question of Pupil Teachers, *July 9*, 235, 236.

"Hyacinth," H.M.S.
Repairs of, time expended on—Mileage run on trials and Commissions.
Q. Colonel Denny ; *A.* Mr. Arnold-Forster, *July 14*, 564.

Hyde Corporation Bill
l. 3R.* *July 10*, 270.
c. Lords' Amendts. con. July 16*, 839.
l. Royal Assent, July 21, 1246.

Hyde Park
Rotten Row Ambulances. Establishment of ambulance at west end of Row, adoption of Police for St. John's ambulances, proposed.
Q. Mr. C. Hay ; *A.* Mr. V. Cavendish, *July 8*, 25.

Imports and Exports
British Imports and Exports for last seventy years. Return of total value of, proposed.
Q. Mr. Hoult ; *A.* Mr. B. Law, *July 8*, 17.
Exports, Difference in value of in time of brisk as compared with slack trade—Basing statistics of exports and imports in preparation for Fiscal Inquiry, upon tonnage and not fluctuating market values, proposed.
Q. Sir C. M'Laren ; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour, *July 20*, 1147.
Excess of British imports over exports. Estimate of, and to what causes due.
Q. Viscount Goschen ; *A.* Duke of Devonshire, *July 14*, 558.
Fish and diamonds—Value of imports not published in official statistics, reason for omission.
Q. Mr. G. Bowles ; *A.* Mr. Ritchie, *July 8*, 19.
Foreign Countries, Imports from, into British possessions, Total value of.
Q. Mr. H. Samuel ; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour, *July 16*, 849.
Increase of, during first half-year of 1903. Average increase during periods 1873–1882, etc.
Q. Mr. H. Samuel ; *A.* Mr. B. Law, *July 10*, 308.
Parchment Coffee-Husk. Value of imports during 1902—Country from which imported, etc.
Q. Mr. Gardner ; *A.* Mr. B. Law, *July 8*, 8.
Woollen and Cotton Goods and Cutlery—Exports to Foreign Countries in 1872 and 1902, Value of.
Q. Mr. S. Buxton ; *A.* Mr. B. Law, *July 8*, 7.

Incest Bill
Debate on Second Reading (*l.*), *July 16*, 820.
Ecclesiastical Attitudes, 820, 821 ; Effect of Bill, Probable, 822, 823 ; Scotland, Treatment of the Crime in, 821 ; "Step-Daughter," proposed deletion of, 820.

Income Tax
Ireland.
Appeals—Issue of Instructions for hearing of appeals in absence of Previous Returns, proposed.
Q. Mr. Field ; *A.* Mr. Ritchie, *July 8*, 29.
Inland Revenue *v.* McDonnell—Amount of Costs—Reason for not taking proceedings in the County Court.
Q. Mr. Delany ; *A.* Mr. Ritchie, *July 13*, 389.
Assessment of Income, grounds for making such assessment.
Q. Mr. Delany ; *A.* Mr. Ritchie, *July 13*, 390.
Scotland, Collection of tax in—Consideration of time and method of collection by Committee on Income Tax—Equalisation of System in England and Scotland, proposed.
Q. Mr. M'Crae ; *A.* Mr. Ritchie, *July 13*, 404.
Returns.
Landowners, Issue to of forms for statement of Income—Dispensing with Return in certain cases, proposed.
Q. Mr. T. Chamberlayne ; *A.* Mr. Ritchie, *July 14*, 565.
Simplication of forms and modification of system of basing income tax assessments on future profits, proposed.
Q. Mr. Field ; *A.* Mr. Ritchie, *July 8*, 23.

India.
Army—Young Officers joining regiment in India—Embarkation of, during the trooping season only, proposed.
Q. Mr. Orr-Ewing ; *A.* Lord Stanley, *July 15*, 694.
Agricultural Banks—Committee Report, date of Laying on Table.
Q. Mr. Weir ; *A.* Lord G. Hamilton, *July 9*, 137.
Brussels Sugar Convention, Communication of, to Indian Government, Reply.
Q. Mr. Lough ; *A.* Earl Percy, *July 21*, 1313.
Cable Charges between India and China—Reduction of, proposed.
Q. Mr. Flower ; *A.* Mr. Austen Chamberlain, *July 16*, 867.
Coinage and Currency—Sovereigns, number of, paid into Indian Treasury, number paid out by Departments for Public Works—Amount of Gold Currency Reserves in India and England.
Q. Sir J. Leng ; *A.* Lord G. Hamilton, *July 16*, 845.

[*cont.*

India—*cont.*
Condition of the People—Report Presented, *July 10*, 272, 305.
Crops—Area under Crops for 1901-1902, etc.
Q. Mr. Weir; *A.* Lord G. Hamilton, *July 16*, 846.
Defence of—*See* War Office.
Finance—Explanatory Memorandum by the Secretary of State for India. Presented, *July 14*, 519, 564.
Irrigation—
Commission of Inquiry—Recommendations contained in Report of Statement requested.
Q. Mr. Weir; *A.* Lord G. Hamilton, *July 16*, 844.
State Canals — Area irrigated by Canals for years 1891-1892, 1901-1902.
Q. Mr. Weir; *A.* Lord G. Hamilton, *July 9*, 137.
Labour for Southern Rhodesia—Proposal of Government of Southern Rhodesia —Attitude of Indian Government towards.
Q. Sir T. Dewar; *A.* Mr. J. Chamberlain, *July 22*, 1441.
Motor Car Transport—Experiments with regard to—Calling for Report on Subject, proposed.
Q. Mr. Weir; *A.* Lord G. Hamilton, *July 16*, 847.
Preferential Tariffs, *see* that title.
Savings Bank Deposits—Increase of, number and class of depositors.
Q. Mr. Weir; *A.* Lord G. Hamilton, *July 16*, 844.
South African Garrison.
Benefit of Troops in South Africa to India doubtful—Garrison to be composed of young inexperienced men—Assistance rendered by India in South African War, etc., tribute to—Presentation of Papers, proposed, *July 20*, 1108.
Consent of Indian Government to proposal—Laying Correspondence on Table proposed.
Q. Mr. Buchanan; *A.* Lord G. Hamilton, *July 20*, 1136.
Contribution of India to Naval Expenditure, smallness of—Present policy the work of the Committee of Defence, *July 20*, 1120.
Effect on Army Expenditure if scheme be carried into effect—Opinion of Council of India and Viceroy and Indian Council—Necessity of having papers relative to, *July 20*, 1122.
Inconsistency of proposal with principles guiding financial relations between Great Britian and India —Danger to Indian Finances—Doubtful benefits of scheme—Opinions of Indian Press—Papers moved for.
Q. Marquess of Ripon; *A.* Earl of Hardwicke, *July 20*, 1094.

India—*cont.*
South African Garrison—*cont.*
Proposal to place portion of cost of on Revenues of India—Attitude of Committee of Imperial Defence towards scheme—Arguments in favour of scheme, *July 20*, 1115.
Secretary of State and Council—Attitude of, towards proposed contribution—Laying Minutes of Council on Table, proposed.
Q. Sir M. Bhownaggree; *A.* Lord G. Hamilton, *July 21*, 1433.
State Railways and Canals—Capitalised Value of
Q. Mr. Weir; *A.* Lord G. Hamilton, *July 16*, 844.

Inebriate Reformatories
Regulations for Management, presented *July 9*, 128, 136.

Infiltration
see Naval Works Bill.

Investments
British Investments abroad and Foreign Investments in Great Britain—Amounts of, etc.
Q. Mr. Atherley-Jones; *A.* Mr. Ritchie, *July 20*, 1143.

Ipswich Gas Bill
l. Royal Assent, *July 21*, 1245.

Ireland
Agricultural Department (Ireland) *see* that title.
Bee-keeping Industry — Prevalence of disease of foul brood — Legislation proposed.
Q. Mr. Boland; *A.* Mr. Wyndham, *July 20*, 1152.
Belmullet and Mallaranny Steamer Service—Nature of inquiries made in connection with.
Q. Mr. O'Kelly; *A.* Mr. Wyndham, *July 13*, 410.
Education, *see* that title.
Kildorrery — Alleged assault on Mrs. Fitzgerald, nature of offence—Inquiry into case proposed.
Q. Mr. W. Abraham; *A.* Mr. Wyndham, *July 16*, 842.
Letterfrack to Clifden—Car Fare. Increase of fare charged to police, alleged.
Q. Mr. O'Malley; *A.* Mr. Wyndham, *July 16*, 855.
Law and Justice.
Attorney-General, Responsibility of—For prosecutions under present law.
Os. Mr. J. Devlin, *July 20*, 1223, 1224; Mr. Delany, *July 20*, 1126.

[*cont.*

Ireland—*cont.*
Law and Justice—*cont.*
Dublin City, Proclamation of.
Os. Mr. Field, *July 20*, 1231; Mr. Atkinson, *July 20*, 1231; Mr. Swift MacNeill, *July 20*, 1231; Mr. Kilbride, *July 20*, 1233.
Members of the House, Criminal law against.
Os. Mr. Farrell, *July 20*, 1219, 1234, 1235; Mr. Joseph Devlin, *July 20*, 1221; Mr. Dillon, *July 20*, 1226, 1235; Mr. Cullinan, *July 20*, 1227; Mr. O'Dows, *July 20*, 1229; Mr. O'Kelly, *July 20*, 1230; Mr. Atkinson, *July 20*, 1231.
Packed Juries.
Os. Mr. Delany, *July 20*, 1225; Mr. Atkinson, *July 20*, 1236; Mr. Dillon, *July 20*, 1237; Mr. Kilbride, *July 20*, 1238.
Police, Behaviour of the.
Os. Mr. J. Devlin, *July 20*, 1223, 1224; Mr. Atkinson, *July 20*, 1231
Leffey, Pollution of—Discontinuance of practice proposed.
Q. Mr. Nannetti; *A.* Mr. Wyndham. *July 20*, 1153.
Loans—Small Farmers, Dwelling Loans. Enabling farmers to obtain loans at 3½ per cent. for erection of dwellings on holdings. proposed.
Q. Mr. Power; *A.* Mr. Wyndham. *July 13*, 408.
Marine Store Dealers (Ireland) Bill—*See* that title.
Post Office Savings Bank, Accounts of—Kept in London. Advantages of arrangement.
Q. Mr. Lundon. A. Mr. Elliot. *July 14*, 582.
Prosecution for Carts without Owner's Name thereon—Case of Mr. D. Buckley. Impartial Carrying out of requirements of law by the Police.
Q. Mr. Flynn; *A.* Mr. Wyndham. *July 13*, 395.
Public Audits—Establishment of permanent audit office staff at Dublin.
Q. Mr. Lundon; *A.* Mr. Elliot; *July 13*, 412
Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890—Regulations as to issue of Stock by Urban Authorities, Copy Presented, *July 15*, 686.
Public Offices (Dublin) Bill, *see* that title.
Royal Visit.
Introduction of Bill repealing Criminal Law and Procedure (Ireland) Act, 1887, prior to, proposed.
Qs. Mr. J. O'Connor; *As.* Mr. A. J. Balfour, *July 9*, 159.
Dublin Castle—Work entrusted to English firms, reason for exclusion of Irish firms.
Q. Mr, Field; *A.* Mr. Elliot, *July 14*, 570.

Ireland—*cont.*
Shannon Fisheries. Amount paid by Board of Works to fishery owners—Upholding of Fishing rights.
Q. Mr. Joyce; *A.* Mr. Wyndham, *July 20*, 1154.
Stamp Duty. Ad Valorem Stamp Duty on Authorised Capital—Refusal to allow payment to remain in abeyance until Capital has been raised. Effect upon investments in Irish enterprises.
Q. Mr. T. M. Healy; *A.* Mr. Ritchie, *July 10*, 307.

Irish Development Grant.
See Irish Land Bill.

Irish Gold Ornaments.
Display of, in Tea Room proposed.
Q. Sir T. Esmonde; *A.* Mr. A. J. Balfour, *July 8*, 30.
Transference to Dublin Museum, in view of the decision as to their being the property of the Crown.
Q. Mr. W. Redmond; *A.* Mr. A. J. Balfour, *July 8*, 30.

Irish Land Bill
Considered in Committee July 8, 35; *July 17*, 1029.
Advances, *see* New Clauses (sub-heading).
Agricultural Labourers, 37, 38, 46, 47, 48.
Bonus, Allocation of, 74, 118, 119, 120, 1073, 1074.
Compulsory Acquisition of Land, *see* New Clauses (sub-heading).
Congested Districts, *see* New Clauses (sub-heading).
Covenants, *see* New Clauses (sub-heading).
Encumbrancers, Establishment of Title, 1060, 1061, 1062.
State Commissioners, Work of, 58, 91, 92, 1051, 1055, 1075.
Evicted Tenants, Case of, 1046.
Expenses, *see* New Clauses (sub-heading).
First Term Rents, *see* Zones (sub-heading).
Fitzgerald, Appointment of Mr., 1082, 1083, 1084.
Foreshore Rights, 1052.
Graziers, position of, 1043, 1044, 1045, 1046.
Hanging Gate Rent, 1080.
Head Rents, *see* New Clauses (sub-heading).
Insolvent Estates, Owners of, 1059.
Irish Development Grant, *see* New Clauses (sub-heading).
Labourers Allotments, *see* New Clauses (sub-heading).

[*cont.*

Irish Land Bill—*cont.*

- *Considered in Committee—cont.*
  - Labourers' Bill suggested, 29, 40, 41, 43, 44, 45.
  - Labourers, Housing of, 35, 36, 37, 38, 98, 1030.
  - Labourers, Representation of, 113, 114.
  - Labourers Wages, 40, 41, 42, 46, 47 48, 1085.
  - Land Agents, position of, 116, 1055, 1056, 1057, 1058.
  - Land Commission, Work of, 35, 1047, 1053, 1060, 1063, 1065.
  - Land Conference, Report and Results of, 57, 58, 91, 98.
  - Landlords' Right of Pre-emption, Abolition of, 1032.
  - Maynooth College, Indemnification of, 79, 80.
  - Mill Holdings, *see* New Clauses (sub-heading).
  - New Clauses.
    - Advances not within Zones, 49.
    - Ancient Monuments, Land Commission and, 49.
    - Compulsory Acquisition of Land, 115, 1030.
    - Congested Districts, Management of, 89, 99, 104, 105, 1047, 1048.
    - Congested Districts Board, Redemption of holdings by, 89.
    - Covenants against Tillage, 115.
    - Expenses of Negotiations, 117, 1072.
    - Grant in Aid, 87.
    - Head Rents, *see* Trinity College.
    - Irish Development Grant, 51, 55, 62, 63, 64, 76, 1064, 1066, 1068, 1070.
    - Labourers Act and Land Conference, 90.
    - Labourers Allotments, 92, 93, 95.
    - Labourers Representation, 113, 114.
    - Mill Holdings, 105, 1041.
    - New Cottages, Erection of, 98.
    - Restraints on Alienation, 98.
    - Sporting Rights, Mineral Rights, etc., 96, 97.
    - Trinity College and Church Perpetuity Leases, 114, 1039.
    - Trinity College Head Rents, 50, 54, 55, 57, 58, 59, 64, 70, 74, 76, 78, 79, 82, 84, 1037.
    - Ulster Tenant Right Custom, 106, 109, 110, 112.
    - Under Secretary to be a Member of Board, 96.
  - Private Council Appeal, 1029, 1030.

Irish Land Bill—*cont.*

- *Considered in Committee—cont.*
  - Second Term Rents, *see* Zones (sub-heading).
  - Sporting Rights, *see* New Clauses (sub-heading).
  - Sub-divided holdings, 1032.
  - Superior Interest, 48.
  - Trinity College Grants, 1033, 1040, 1064, 1068, 1069, 1070.
  - Trinity College, *see* New Clauses (sub-heading).
  - Trustees, power of, 1076, 1078.
  - Urban Districts, Labourers Cottages in, 35, 36.
  - Variable Head Rents, 1031.
  - Zones.
    - First Term Rents, 1042, 1043.
    - Second Term Rents, 1042, 1043.
- *Debate on Third Reading* (c) *July 21*, 1322.
  - Administrative Body, Organization of, 1325, 1341.
  - Bonus, Question of, 1342, 1345, 1351, 1362, 1370.
  - Compulsion in Bill, 1327, 1348.
  - Congested Districts, Management of, 1325, 1338, 1350, 1365, 1370.
  - Effect of Bill, 1327, 1330, 1334, 1355, 1356.
  - Estates Commission, Constitution and Work of, 1324, 1350.
  - Evicted Tenants, Question of, 1324, 1342.
  - Finance of Bill, 1344, 1349, 1358, 1362, 1373.
  - History of Bill, 1323.
  - Home Rule, Probable Effect on, 1332, 1339, 1360.
  - Labourers, Question of, 1326, 1365, 1369, 1370.
  - Land Commission, Work of, 1331.
  - Land Conference, Report and Results of, 1323, 1342, 1347, 1350.
  - Landlords, Attitude of, 1330, 1335, 1340, 1341, 1350, 1361, 1364, 1368.
  - Limitation of Price, 1341.
  - Minimum Price (or Maximum Reduction), Abolition of, 1324, 1334.
  - Taxpayers, Position of British, 1356, 1359, 1375.
  - Tenants, Position of, 1331, 1344.
  - Trinity College, 1336.
- Bankrupt Owners--Debts of Bankrupt Owner paid by Insurance Company—Power to sell under Land Bill in hands of Bankrupt Owner or Insurance Company.
  - *Q.* Mr. T. W. Russell; *A.* Mr. Atkinson, *July 16*, 854.

[*cont.*

Irish Land Bill—*cont.*
Marquess of Ely's Estate, Sale of, under Land Bill—Provision for Sales being made at place of owner's choice.
Q. Mr. W. T. Russell ; *A.* Mr. Wyndham, *July 16*, 869.

Iron and Steel Trade
Canada—Manufacture of Wire Rods, Structural Ironwork and Steel Plates in Canada.
Q. Mr. D. A. Thomas ; *A.* Mr. J. Chamberlain, *July 20*, 1140.
Exports, Weight and Value of, in each Half-Year of 1901, 1902, 1903.
Q. Mr. H. Samuel ; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour, *July 14*, 566.
Imports during First Half-Year of 1903 etc., Value of—Ports at which delivered.
Q. Sir T. Wrightson ; *A.* Mr. B. Law, *July 9*, 138.
Scotch Foundries—Extension of Special Exception as to Meal Hours in—Order Presented, *July 16*, 819, 840.

Irvine and District Water Board Order Confirmation Bill
l. 2R.* *July 14*, 518.
l. 3R.* *July 16*, 819.
c. 1R.* *July 17*, 1023.

Italy
Corn, Prices of—Rate of Import Duty.
Q. Mr. G. Bowles ; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour, *July 21*, 1299.

Jameson, Major J. E. [Clare, W.]
Licensing Acts (Scotland) Consolidation and Amendment Bill, *July 13*, 505.

Japan
Kobé Medical Practice at, Case of Dr. Knaggs—Explanation of Attitude of British Consul at Kobé.
Q. Mr. Weir ; *A.* Lord Cranborne, *July 9*, 139.

Jeffreys, Right Hon. A. F. *Deputy-Chairman of Committees* [Hants, N.]
Irish Law—Prosecutions under—Government not responsible, *July 20*, 1224.

Jersey, Earl of
Motor-Cars Bill (*Committee*), *July 17*, 982, 985 ; *July 21*, 1278.

Jessel, Captain H. M. [St. Pancras, S.]
London Education Bill, *July 15*, 728, 737, 755.

Jewish Colonisation Association Bill
c. 3R.* *July 8*, 1.
l. Royal Assent, *July 21*, 1246.

Johannesburg
Lord Milner and the "Johannesburg Leader," Summary Dismissal of Editorial Staff by Lord Milner, alleged.
Qs. Mr. S. MacNeill ; *As.* Mr. J. Chamberlain, *July 13*, 400.

Jones, Mr. Brynmor [Swansea District]
Ecclesiastical Commissioners—Number of Meetings held in 1901, 1902—Attendances at Meetings, etc., *July 13*, 406.
Egypt.
Finance, Steps to remove Financial difficulties imposed by Laws of Liquidation, *July 14*, 576.
Judicial System—Inconvenience arising from Divers Jurisdictions—Simplification of System, proposed, *July 14*, 576.

Jones, Mr. William [Carnarvon, Arfon]
London Education Bill, *July 15*, 791.
School-teachers, Deficiencies in training of—Plea for training in connection with the Universities—Question of pupil-teachers, *July 9*, 187.

Jordon, Mr. J. [Fermanagh, S.]
Irish Land Bill (*Committee*), *July 17*, 1057.

Joyce, Mr. M. [Limerick]
Griffin, James—late Royal Garrison Regiment. Granting Army Pension to, proposed, *July 8*, 13.
Irish Land Bill (*Committee*), *July 8*, 97, 98.
Shannon Fisheries. Amount paid by Board of Works to fishery owners. Upholding of Fishing Rights, *July 20*, 1154.

Judicial Statistics
Ireland. Civil Statistics Presented, *July 13*, 375, 387.

Kearley Mr. H. E. [Devonport]
Patriotic Fund, *July 20*, 1167.

Kelvin, Lord
Motor-Cars Bill, *July 14*, 541.
Motor-Cars Bill (*Committee*), *July 17*, 991, 993, 1008 ; *July 21*, 1276, 1280.

Kennaway, Rt. Hon. Sir J. [Devon, Honiton
Gold Coast Natives, Spirit Licences issued to, Report as to issue, number issued, regulations with regard to issue, *July 10*, 307.

Kennedy, Mr. P. J. [Westmeath, N.]
Meath Rate Collector—Suspension of Collector by Meath County Council, Removal of Suspension by Local Government Board—Reconsideration of action by Local Government Board, proposed, *July 20*, 1154.

Kenyon, Hon. G. T. [Denbigh]
Llangollen School Board—Different Treatment of Board Schools and Voluntary Schools, alleged, *July 22*, 1438.

Kenyon, Lord
Local Government (Transfer of Powers) Bill, *July 9*, 132.
Local Government (Transfer of Powers) Bill, *July 10*, 301.

Kerry
Congested Districts Board.
Demand for Representation of Kerry on the Board—Appointment of Resident of Kerry to next Vacancy on Board, proposed.
Q. Mr. T. O'Donnell; *A.* Mr. Wyndham, *July 20*, 1152.
Non-representation of Kerry on—Appointment of Representative of Kerry at next Vacancy, proposed.
Q. Mr. T. O'Donnell; *A.* Mr. Wyndham, *July 21*, 1317.
Kells
Landing facilities at, Result of Application to Congested Districts Board for.
Q. Mr. Boland; *A.* Mr. Wyndham, *July 16*, 855.
Railway Station, Inconvenience of site—Representations to Railway Company for construction of Flag Stations at Dooneen and Mount Foley, proposed.
Q. Mr. Boland; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour, *July 14*, 583.
Potato-growing Industry — Assistance rendered by Congested Districts Board.
Q. Mr. T. O'Donnell; *A.* Mr. Wyndham, *July 9*, 157.

Keyham
see Naval Works Bill.

Kilbride, Mr. [Kildare, S.]
Dublin City, Proclamation of—Packed juries, *July 20*, 1232, 1338.
Irish Land Bill (*Committee*), *July 8*, 42.

Killeshandra
Butter, Delay in Transit, from Killeshandra to Scotland by Midland Great Western Railway Company, Alleged Neglect.
Q. Mr. M'Govern; *A.* Mr. Wyndham, *July 10*, 311.
Killeshandra to Scotland — Refusal of Midland Great Western Railway Company to give through Rate to Scotland except *via* Dublin—Compelling Company to give through Rate *via* Belfast, proposed.
Q. Mr. M'Govern; *A.* Mr. Wyndham, *July 10*, 309.

Kimberley, Earl of
Motor Cars Bill (*Committee*), *July 21*, 1266.

King, Sir Seymour (Hull Central).
Cooper's Hill College—Consultation with Indian Government previous to decision as to future of College, *July 13*, 393.

King's College, London, Bill.
l. Royal Assent, *July 21*, 1245.

Kingston-upon-Hull Corporation Bill.
l. 2R*, *July 13*, 373.
l. *Com.**, *July 14*, 518.

Kip's Patent Bill.
c. 2R* *Com.**, *July 8*, 1.

Knaggs, Dr.
Medical Practice at Kobé—Explanation of attitude of British Consul with regard to.
Q. Mr. Weir; *A.* Lord Cranborne, *July 9*, 139.

Knowles, Mr. Lees [Salford W.]
Ecclesiastical Commissioners—Number of meetings held in 1901, 1902—Attendances at meetings, *July 13*, 406.

Laboratories.
Government Laboratory—Report with Appendices, Presented, *July 20*, 1094, 1132.

Labouchere, Mr. H. [Northampton].
Cape "ragging" case, *July 16*, 951.

Labourers' Cottages [Ireland].
Delay in Erection of, in Cavan Union. cause of delay, present state of scheme.
Q. Mr. M'Govern; *A.* Mr. Wyndham, *July 13*, 394.
Nenagh Cottage Scheme—Case of J. Quigley—Reconsideration of, proposed
Qs. Mr. P. J. O'Brien; *As.* Mr. Wyndham, *July 13*, 411.

Labourers [Ireland].
See Irish Land Bill.

Labourers [Ireland] **Acts.**
Allocation of portion of Credit to Counties which have spent all available Exchequer contribution, proposed.
Q. Mr. T. O'Donnell; A. Mr. Wyndham, *July 15*, 701.

Lambert, Mr. G. [Devon, S. Moulton]
Corn Duty. Result to Farmers, *July 21*, 1302.
Irish Land Bill (3R.), *July 21*, 1359.
Schools, Curriculum for Rural—Substitution of Drawing for Instruction in general Agriculture, proposed, *July 22*, 1449.
Whitaker Wright Prosecution, Incidence of Costs of—Diverting Crown to bear Costs, proposed, *July 22*, 1449.

Lamington, Lord
Military Lands Bill, *July 21*, 1250.
Motor-Cars Bill, *July 14*, 540; *July 21*, 1260.
Outdoor Relief (Pensioners) Bill, *July 16*, 835.

Lanarkshire and Dumbartonshire Railway Bill
l. Royal Assent, *July 21*, 1246.

Lanarkshire Tramways Order Confirmation Bill
l. 2R.* *July 14*, 518.
l. 3R.* *July 17*, 974.
c. 1R.* *July 20*, 1131.

Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway
Steps to secure Safety of Travelling Public previous to completion of Electrification of portion of line.
Q. Mr. M. Hall ; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour, *July 21*, 1299.

Land Agents
see Irish Land Bill.

Land Commission, Ireland
Commissioners.
Report, Presented, *July 9*, 136 ; *July 10*, 271.
Wicklow, Delay in hearing Cases alleged—Cause of Delay.
Q. Mr. J. O'Connor ; *A.* Mr. Wyndham, *July 15*, 701.
Dromahair, The Acres—Affidavit of Mr. S. Gillmor to the effect that he was tenant of the lands of, for purpose of obtaining Advance from Land Commission—Sworn Inquiry, proposed.
Q. Mr. O'Dowd ; *A.* Mr. Atkinson, *July 20*, 1150.
Limerick, Fair Rents in—Delay in fixing, Cause of.
Q. Mr. W. Redmond ; *A.* Mr. Wyndham, *July 21*, 1298.

Land Conference
see Irish Land Bill.

Land Question, Ireland
Derrygoolin, Woodford — Lord Clanricarde's Tenants, Notices to Quit served on—Amount of Rent due on date of Service, Reason for service.
Q. Mr. Roche ; *A.* Mr. Wyndham, *July 16*, 868.
Ely's, Marquess of, Estate—Sale of, under Irish Land Bill—Provision for Sales being made at place of—Owner's choice.
Q. Mr. T. W. Russell ; *A.* Mr. Wyndham, *July 16*, 869.
Land Purchase—Return relative to, Presented, *July 16*, 820.
Land Purchase Acts—Tithe Rent-Charges, Redemption of—Difference in Number of Years Purchase payable to State and Private Owners — Reason for distinction.
Q. Mr. Butcher ; *A.* Mr. Wyndham, *July 16*, 855.

Lansdowne, Marquess of
Military Lands Bill, *July 21*, 1255.
Preferential Tariffs, *July 10*, 283.
Preservation of Wild Animals in Central Africa—Steps taken by British Government to carry out terms of Convention —Delay in deposition of ratifications of Convention, Reasons for, *July 13*, 376.

Law Courts—High Courts of Justice, etc.
Supreme Courts of Judicature — Rules Presented, *July 20*, 1094, 1132.

Law, Mr. Bonar, *Parliamentary Secretary Board of Trade* [Glasgow, Blackfriars]
Cotton Trust, effect on Cotton Industry—Reports from abroad to be laid on the Table, *July 8*, 16.
Imports and Exports.
Exports to Foreign Countries of Woollen and Cotton Goods, and Cutlery Exports—Value of, in 1872, 1902, *July 8*, 7.
Increase in Value of Exports—Decrease in Value of Exports for first Six Months of 1903—Average Annual Increase during periods 1873–1882, etc., *July 10*, 308.
Value of Imports and Exports for last Seventy Years—Sources of Information, *July 8*, 17.
Fiscal Inquiry — Preferential Railway Rates for Foreign Produce—Question not to be included within scope of Inquiry, *July 8*, 22.
Fish, Destruction of, at Billingsgate and Aberdeen—Reason for, *July 8*, 17.
Iron and Steel Imports—Value and Weight of, for 190–1903 — Ports at which delivered, Information to be obtained with regard to, *July 9*, 138.
Metropolitan District Railway—Electric Traction, Establishment of system of—Progress made with regard to, *July 8*, 16.
Parchment Coffee Husk—Value of imports during 1902, Country from which imported, etc., *July 8*, 8.
Ships (British) trading with Foreign Countries—Value of Trade, aggregate tonnage of ships, etc.—Endeavour of Board of Trade to collect information as to, *July 9*, 155.
Statistical Abstracts—Date of Publication, *July 8*, 7.
Wheat, American Railway Freight on—Reduction of, during 1902, extent of, *July 8*, 8.

Lawrence, Sir J. [Monmouth Boroughs]
Coal Exports—Increased Exports during first half of 1903—Amount of increase due to increased exports of coal and coke, *July 15*, 688.

Lawson, Sir W. [Cornwall, Camborne]
Fiscal Inquiry—Taking evidence of Representatives of Co-operative Societies, *July 15*, 704.
Licensing Acts (Scotland)—Consolidation and Amendment Bill, *July 13*, 500.

Leamy, Mr. E. [Kildare, N.]
Irish Land Bill (*Committee*) *July 17*, 1046.
(3R.) *July 21*, 1370.

Leaseholds
Terminable Leaseholds.
Appointment of Town Holdings Committee to consider, proposed.
Q. Mr. Field; *A.* Mr. A. J. Balfour, *July 21*, 1320.
Introduction of measure to safe-guard property paid for by Terminable Leaseholders, proposed.
Q. Mr. Lundon; *A.* Sir R. Finlay, *July 22*, 1450.
Opportunity for discussion of a measure to remedy defects under present system of tenure.
Q. Mr. Field; *A.* Mr. A. J. Balfour, *July 8*, 32.

Legge, Colonel [St. George's, Hanover Square]
London Education Bill, *July 15*, 753.

Leigh Corporation Bill
l. 3R.* *July 10*, 270.
c. Lords' Amendts., con. *July 16*, 839.
l. Royal Assent, *July 21*, 1246.

Leiter Wheat Corner
Increase in price of Wheat during "Leiter" Corner—Amount of Increase.
Q. Sir H. Vincent; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour, *July 17*, 1026.

Leng, Sir J. [Dundee]
Coasting Steamers—Steamers allowed to navigate round United Kingdom without certificated officers on board—Legislation with regard to granting compensation for accidents arising from carelessness of unqualified officers, *July 13*, 390.
Diving and Swimming, Inclusion of, in Naval training — Regulations with regard to, *July 22*, 1435.
Government Stamp on Prepared Medicines—Regulation of Board of Inland Revenue with regard to—Necessity for stamping small quantities of medicines and attaching distinctive names to them, *July 8*, 9.
Indian Currency — Sovereigns, number paid into Indian Treasury, number paid out by Departments of Public Works—Amount of Gold Currency Reserves in India and England, *July 16*, 845.
Licensing Acts (Scotland) Consolidated and Amendment Bill, *July 13*, 426, 445, 486, 489, 515, 516.
Telegraphic Delays in Scotland—Breakages of wires during gale—Length of delay in transmission, *July 13*, 406.

Levy, Mr. M. [Leicestershire, Loughborough]
Canadian Government Railways, Locomotives for—Difference in price between accepted tender and lowest tender of foreign firms—Amount of preference, *July 14*, 571.
Education Rates, Levying of, by County and Borough Councils prior to Act becoming operative, *July 9*, 154.

Lewis, Island of
Housing Loans, Granting of to Crofters for Erection of New Houses, proposed.
Q. Mr. Weir; *A.* Mr. S. Dickson, *July 9*, 156.

Lewis, Mr. J. H. [Flint Boroughs]
London Education Bill, *July 15*, 719, 721, 808.

Licensing Act Amendment Bill
Debate on Second Reading (*l.*), *July 14*, 519.
Commission of Inquiry into Trade Work of, 521.
Liquor Traffic, Importance of, 520.
Magistrates with regard to Licences, Action of, 520.
Revenues from Liquor Traffic, 520.

Licensing Acts (Scotland) Consolidation and Amendment Bill
Consideration of Amendments (*c.*), *July 13*, 417; *July 21*, 1399; *July 22*, 1507.
Appeal Courts, Abolition of, 475, 476 477, 478.
Appeal, Right of, 495, 496, 497.
"Authorities" for "Courts," Substitution of, 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446.
Bogus Clubs, Question of, 418.
Bonâ Fide Travellers, 497, 498, 499, 500.
Burghs and County Appeal Court, 483, 484.
Canvassing Licensing Authority Penalties for, 423, 424, 425, 426' 427, 429, 430, 431, 432.
Children, Sale of Intoxicants to, 1520.
Closing Hours, Persons on Premises after, 433, 434.
Closing Hours, Suggested, 1514, 1516, 1517, 1518.
Corking and Stoppering, 511, 512.
Councillors as Members of Licensing Authority, 475.
County Appeal Court *see* Burghs (subheading).
County Councils, Control of Licences by, 470, 471.
Disorderly Conduct on Licensed Premises, 419, 1519.
Drunk and Incapable Persons, Arrest of, 1424, 1425.
Excise Licences, Duty on, 489.
Excise Licences, Forfeiture of, 417, 418.
Grocers' Licences, No Further Grant of, 419, 420, 421.
Imperial Standard Measure, Sale of Liquor by, 1407.
Intoxicated Persons, Sale of Liquor to, 419.

[*cont.*

Licensing Acts (Scotland) Consolidation and Amendment Bill—*cont.*

Consideration of Amendments—cont.

Licensed Premises, Control over Structure of, 515, 1399, 1400, 1403, 1404.

Licensing Authorities, Power to Close Houses of, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508.

Magistrates, Qualifications of, 468, 469.

Opening of Licensed Premises, Hours of, 1523, 1524, 1525, 1529, 1531, 1532, 1533, 1534, 1535, 1536, 1537, 1538.

Penalties, Question of, 1421, 1422, 1423.

Police Boroughs, Powers regarding Licences of, 459, 461, 462.

Police, Powers of the, 419.

"Public Place," Definition of, 1508.

Railway Refreshment Rooms, 435, 436, 437, 438,

Rates and Taxes on Licensed Premises, Collection of, 1409, 1410, 1411, 1412, 1413, 1414, 1415, 1416, 1417.

Renewal of Licences, Extension of, 486, 488.

Repeated Applications for Licences, 491, 422, 493.

Restaurant Keepers affected by Bill, 501.

Royal and Parliamentary Burghs, Powers of Licensing, 449, 451, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 457.

Sanitary Conveniences on Licensed Premises, 516, 1399, 1400.

"Schooner," Legislation of, 1407, 1408.

Shebeening, Abolition of, 418.

Size of Burghs as Regulation of Licensing Authority, 465, 466, 467, 473.

Sunday, Supply of Intoxicants on, 497, 498.

c. 3R., *July 22*, 1546.

Light Railways Bill

l. 1R.* *July 21*, 1249.

Lights, Lighthouses and Lightships

Ireland—Rock Angus Lighthouse, Condition of, Arrangements for Lighting of, proposed.
Q. Mr. H. C. Richards. *A.* Mr. Wyndham. *July 9*, 145.

Whitehill Light — Temporary arrangements for safety of fishermen, in event of Whitehill Light not being available before winter, proposed.
Q. Mr. C. Wason. *A.* Mr. G. Murray. *July 9*, 138.

Limerick.

Fair Rents, Delay in Fixing—Cause of.
Q. Mr. W. Redmond. *A.* Mr. Wyndham. *July 21*, 1298.

Liverpool.

Vaccination—Cases of Imperfect Vaccination—Recovery of Vaccination Fees from public vaccinators—Issue of definition of perfect vaccination proposed.
Q. Mr. Weir. *A.* Mr. Long. *July 8*, 5.

Llangollen.

School Board.—Different Treatment of Board Schools and Voluntary Schools, alleged.
Q. Mr. G. Kenyon. *A.* Sir W. Anson. *July 22*, 1438.

Llewellyn, Mr. E. H. [Somersetshire, N.]

Canteens, Management of, *July 16*, 932.

Lloyd-George, Mr. [Carnarvon Boroughs.]

London Education Bill, *July 14*, 595, 607, 649, 681; *July 15*, 747, 787, 798, 799, 803; *July 22*, 1480.

Military Works (Consolidated Fund), *July 21*, 1393.

Schools, Inspectorate of, *July 9*, 176.

School Children—Physical Condition of, Necessity for Improvement in Ventilation of Schools—Operation of Education Act—Delegation of Powers of the Councils—Question of Passive Resistance." *July 9*, 238, 247, 248, 249.

Loan Fund System, Ireland

Legislation, Inaction of Present Government with regard to, alleged.
Q. Mr. Dillon; *A.* Mr. Wyndham, *July 16*, 841.

Report of Loan Fund Board—Statement as to Necessity of Introducing Legislation—Reason for Inaction of Government with regard to Recommendations of the Board.
Q. Mr. Dillon; *A.* Mr. Wyndham, *July* , 11.

Local Government Board

President—Right Hon. W. H. Long.
Parliamentary Secretary—Mr. J. Grant Lawson.

Fiscal Inquiry—Connection of Board with Inquiry.
Q. Mr. D. A. Thomas; *A.* Mr. W. Long, *July 16*, 853.

Power of—*see* Local Government (Transfer of Powers) Bill.

see also London Education Bill.

Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (No. 3) Bill

l. 2R.* *July 17*, 973.
l. *Com.* *July 17*, 974.
l. *Com.* Rep.* *July 21*, 1248.

Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (No. 5) Bill

l. 2R.* *July 17*, 973.
l. *Com.* *July 17*, 974.

Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (No. 7) Bill
l. 2R.* *July 17*, 873.
l. Com. July 17*, 974.
l. Com. July 21*, 1248.

Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (Housing of the Working Classes) Bill.
l. Royal Assent, *July 21*, 1245.

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 5) Bill
l. Rep.* *July 17*, 975.
l. 3R.* *July 21*, 1248.

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 9) Bill
c. Rep.* *July 14*, 518.
l. 3R.* *July 16*, 818.
l. Royal Assent, *July 21*, 1245.

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 10) Bill
c. Lords' Amendts. con. July 10*, 303.
l. Royal Assent, *July 21*, 1245.

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 12) Bill
l. Royal Assent, *July 21*, 1245.

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 13) Bill
l. 2R.* *Com.* July 20*, 1093.
*l. Com.** Rep.* *July 21*, 1248.

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 14) Bill
c. Lords' Amendts. con. July 10, 303.
l. Royal Assent, *July 21*, 1245.

Local Government Provisional Order (No. 16) Bill
3R.* *July 10*, 271.
c. Lords' Amendts. con. July 14*, 563.
l. Royal Assent, *July 21*, 1245.

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 17) Bill
l. Rep.* *Com.* July 9*, 126.
l. 3R.* *July 10*, 271.
l. Royal Assent, *July 21*, 1245.

Local Government Provisional Order (No. 18) Bill
l. Rep.* *Com.* July 9*, 126.
l. 3R.* *July 10*, 271.
l. Royal Assent, *July 21*, 1245.

Local Government Provisional Orders (Poor Law) Bill
l. Royal Assent, *July 21*, 1245.

Local Government (Transfer of Powers) Bill
Debate on Report of Amendments, July 9, 131.
Local Government Board, Scope of Power of, 131, 132.
New Orders, Proposition of, 132.

Local Government (Transfer of Powers) Bill
l. 3R. *July 10*, 302.

Lochnell Estate Bill
c. 2R.* *Com.* July 13*, 385.
c. Rep.* *July 17*, 1023.
c. 3R.* *July 21*, 1294.

London
Education. Election of New Authority—Arrangements with regard to.
Q. Mr. H. Robertson; *A.* Sir W. Anson, *July 13*, 393.
Printing Trade Dispute. Refusal of Board of Trade to interfere, alleged.
Q. Mr. Skewes-Cox; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour, *July 21*, 1316.

London and North-Western Railway Bill [Lords] (By Order) 181.
c. 3R. *July 9*, 235.

London and North-Western Railway Bill
l. Royal Assent, *July 21*, 1246.

London and North-Western Railway Company
Sleeping Accommodation in Holyhead Trains, Increased charge for. Reduction proposed.
Q. Mr. C. Craig; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour, *July 21*, 1315.

London, Brighton, and South Coast Railway Bill
c. con. July 13*, 385.
l. 3R.* *July 16*, 839.
l. Royal Assent, *July 21*, 1246.

London County Council
See London Education Bill.

London Education Bill
Consideration of Amendments [c], *July 14* 587; *July 15*, 713.
Blind, Deaf, and Defective Children, Schools for, 735.
Borough Councils, Power and Work of, 601, 602, 603, 604, 606, 607, 608, 609, 610, 615, 616, 627, 633, 635, 636, 637, 638, 640, 641, 652, 653, 655, 656, 657, 659, 663, 665, 666, 668, 671, 679, 682, 721, 725, 726, 727, 728, 733, 734, 738, 739, 741, 742.
City of London, Exclusion from Bill, 594, 595, 596, 597, 598.
City of London, Representation of, 758, 759, 760.
Close Elementary Schools, Power of Local Authorities to, 793.
Denominational Schools, Management of, 617, 619, 620, 621, 623, 626, 629, 630.
Denominational Schools, Transfer of, 811, 814, 815.

London Education Bill—*cont.*
Consideration of Amendments—cont.
Education Committee—
Authority of, 604, 608, 635, 666.
Publicity of Transactions, 771, 773, 774, 775, 776, 777, 778, 779, 780.
Education Committee, Women as Members of, 666, 713, 714, 715, 716, 717, 718, 719, 721, 722, 723, 767, 768.
Elementary Schools not Receiving Grants, 757.
Endowments, Control of, 761, 762, 763, 764, 766.
Enlargement of Schools, 732, 733, 734.
Evening Schools, *see* Technical and Secondary Education (sub-heading).
Grouping of Schools, *see* Managers (sub-heading).
Inspection, *see* Minutes (sub-heading).
Jewish Schools, Management of, 624, 652.
Local Government Board, Proposed Educational Authority of, 738, 739, 741.
London County Council, Authority of, 597, 600, 601, 603, 604, 606, 607, 608, 609, 612, 615, 642, 653, 657, 663, 666, 669, 671, 672, 680, 726, 738, 739, 747, 748.
London Application of Bill, 588, 589.
Managers, Appointment of, 651, 652, 653, 654, 655, 657, 659, 662, 665, 666, 668, 669, 671, 679, 682, 724, 725.
Managers, Fixity of Tenure of, 792.
Managers, Grouping several Schools under one body of, 615, 646, 647, 648, 649, 650, 651, 652, 655, 658.
Minutes, Right of Ratepayers to inspect, 783, 784, 785, 786, 787, 788, 789, 790, 791, 792.
Municipalisation of Education, alleged, 597, 598.
Non-Provided Schools, Management of, 617, 620, 621, 628, 629.
Postponement of Operation of Bill, Suggested, 745, 746, 747.
Provided Schools, Management of, 617, 619, 620, 622, 646, 713.
Religious Tests, *see* Teachers (sub-heading).
School Board, Work of, 611.
Secondary Schools, Assistance required from local authorities by, 803.
Sites, Selection of, 725, 726, 727, 728, 731.
Supply of Schools, Responsibility of Local Authorities to maintain, 807, 808, 810.
Teachers, Religious Tests for, 794, 795, 796, 798, 799, 800, 801, 802.

London Education Bill—*cont.*
Consideration of Amendments—cont.
Technical and Secondary Education, Rates for, 753, 754, 755, 756.
Voluntary Schools—Management of, 619, 623, 625, 627.
Women, Appointment of, *see* Education Committee (sub-heading).
Debate on 3R. [c] *July 22*, 1507.
Borough Councils, Powers of, 1454, 1467, 1476, 1489, 1496.
Denominational Schools, Rate aid given to, 1457, 1472, 1480, 1484, 1492, 1498, 1500, 1503.
Education Committee, Work of, 1470, 1504.
London County Council, Work of, 1454, 1460, 1465, 1468, 1475, 1479, 1490, 1495, 1497.
Ratepayers, Position of, 1459, 1499, 1504.
Religious Tests, *see* Teachers (sub-heading).
Revolutionary Character of Bill, 1453. 1477.
School Board, Position and Work of, 1452, 1454, 1461, 1468, 1475, 1479, 1480, 1491, 1497.
Teachers, Religious Tests for, 1458, 1462, 1492, 1498.
Technical Education Board, Work of, 1464.
Voluntary Schools, Management of, 1491.
Women, Position on Educational Authority of, 1462, 1491.

London School Board (Hilldrop Road Site) Bill
c. 1R.* *July 9*, 165.

London, Tilbury, and Southend Railway Bill
l. Rep.* *July 16*, 817.

London United Tramways Bill
l. Rep.* *July 16*, 817.

Long, Colonel C. W. [Worcester, Evesham]
Infantry Soldiers of the Line, Average Cost of, *July 20*, 1138.
Wheat, Average Prices and Duty on, in England, France, and Germany, *July 17*, 1026.

Long, Rt. Hon. W., *President of the Local Government Board* [Bristol, S.]
Education Rates—Levying of by County and Borough Councils prior to Act becoming operative, Regulations with regard to, *July 9*, 154.
Fiscal Inquiry—Connection of Local Government Board with, *July 16*, 853.

[*cont.*

Long, Rt. Hon. W.—*cont.*

- London Education Bill, *July 15*, 723, 739, 741, 778, 780, 782, 784, 785, 786, 787, 788, 789, 790, 791, 792.
- Metropolitan Boroughs, Superannuation Allowance to Servants of. Case of Camberwell Borough, *July 21*, 1300.
- Motor-Car Tyres, Regulation of size of, Powers of Local Government Board with regard to, *July 13*, 392.
- Orphan and Deserted Children, Number of, *July 9*, 143.
- Out-door Relief. Non-resident Out-door Relief. Objections to system of. Distribution of, not to be made obligatory, *July 15*, 687.
- Pauper Funeral. Interment of Body washed ashore at Melford Beach, Devon. Payment of extra charges to Overseers, Regulation with regard to, *July 9*, 142.
- Persons dishoused by ground Landlords, Proposed Alteration of Law with regard to, not to be carried out, *July 14*, 565.
- Poor Law Schools.
  - Norwood Schools, Illness at. Investigations in progress. Expenditure on Schools sanctioned by Local Government Board, *July 16*, 852.
  - Poplar. Plans approved for New School. Expenditure not yet authorised, *July 16*, 853.
- Public Health Acts Amendment Bill. Introduction of during present session improbable, *July 8*, 6.
- Smallpox, Persons exposed to infection, Isolation or Vaccination of—Proposal to give local authorities further powers with regard to, to be considered, *July 21*, 1300.
- Vaccination.
  - Gainsborough Prosecution—Action of Officers—Necessity for obtaining consent of Local Government Board previous to dismissal of Officer, *July 13*, 392.
  - Officers, and Local Government Board Inspectors—Powers of inspectors with regard to threatening dismissal of vaccination officers, *July 15*, 700.
  - Liverpool, Case of Imperfect Vaccination at—Further inquiries into, to be made. Instructions of Local Government Board with reference to vaccination, *July 8*, 5.

Longford

- Appeals in, Reduction of number of appeals, reason for.
  - *Q.* Mr. J. P. Farrell; *A.* Mr. Atkinson, *July 9*, 143.
- Cusack Estate, Farms on, Precautions against taking of farms, Pending completion of arrangements for sale to tenants—Settlement of planters on property, alleged.
  - *Q.* Mr. T. P. Farrell; *A.* Mr. Wyndham *July 10*, 310.

Longford—*cont.*

- Estates for Sale in, Number of.
  - *Q.* Mr. J. P. Farrell; *A.* Mr. Atkinson, *July 8*, 10.
- St. Mel's Cathedral, Ardagh, State of Ruins—Steps to be taken to preserve ancient ruins.
  - *Q.* Mr. J. P. Farrell; *A.* Mr. Elliot, *July 8*, 10.

Lonsdale, Mr. J. B. [Armagh, Mid.]

- Irish Land Bill, *July 8*, 66, 105, 111, 114; *July 17*, 1033, 1041.

Lough, Mr. T. [Islington, W.]

- Brussels Sugar Convention.
  - Austria and Hungary, Attitude of, towards demand for alteration of legislation, Charges on Russian Sugar, Publication of proceedings of Permanent Commission, etc., *July 15*, 697.

Lough, Mr.

- Cartel arrangement, Effect of, upon proceedings of the Government with regard to the Brussels Sugar Convention Bill, *July 9*, 162.
- Colonial Bounties, existence of, *July 21*, 1310.
- Colonial Sugar—British obligations with regard to modification of arrangement, proposed, *July 21*, 1310.
- Communication of, to Indian Government. Reply, *July 21*, 1313.
- Communication of, to Colonies. Replies, *July 21*, 1310.
- Fiscal Returns—Returns supplied by Board of Trade and Customs Department different from or in excess of those usually published. Placing forms of such Returns on Order Paper of House of Commons, *July 20*, 1158.
- Irish Land Bill (3R), *July 21*, 1374.
- London Education Bill. *July 14*, 588, 596, 600, 627, 628, 636, 673, 683. *July 15*, 724, 725, 733 739, 790, 794, 807.
- London Education Bill, *July 22*, 1473.
- Metropolitan Streets Bill (*Committee*), *July 8*, 123.
- Military Works (Consolidated Fund), *July 21*, 1389.
- Sugar.
  - Imports from Austria and Hungary. Possibility of entering into August contracts during present year. Undertaking of Government not to impede landing of Sugar under Sugar Convention Bill, *July 20*, 1161.
  - Refineries, Placed in Bond under Sugar Convention Bill, Nature of, *July 9*, 153.

[*cont.*

Lough, Mr.—*cont.*
Twelve o'Clock Rule—Suspension of, at early date, alleged, *July 16*, 871.
West Indies Exports—Return of total exports and sugar exports together with percentage of sugar exports to total exports proposed, *July 16*, 858.

Lowther, Mr. Claude [Cumberland, Eskdale]
Irish Land Bill (3R.), *July 21*, 1354.

Lowther, Rt. Hon. J. W., *Chairman of Committees* [Cumberland, Penrith]
Committees.
  Amendments which negative entire clauses are out of order, *July 8*, 89.
  Clause as a whole must not be discussed when part only is under consideration, *July 8*, 36.
  Interruptions—Protest against, *July 16*, 947.
  Point of Order, Member entitled to state, *July 16*, 944.
  Repetition of Arguments is out of order, *July 8*, 122.
  Resolution of the House of Commons having been passed, it is in order to apply the terms of it to special cases, *July 8*, 62, 63, 64.
  Vote—Questions raised not on, *July 16*, 891.

Lowther, Mr. J. [Kent, Thanet]
Twelve o'Clock Rule—No fresh Bills to be brought on, under, *July 16*, 872.

Lucas, Mr. Reginald J. [Portsmouth].
Naval Works Bill, *July 10*, 343.

Ludlow, Lord
Military Lands Bill, *July 21*, 1249.

Lunacy Acts (Amendment) London Bill
Order to go into Committee, *July 9*, 133.
l. 3R.* *July 16*, 838.

Lunatics and Lunatic Asylums
Cavis Lunatic Asylum—Alleged inadequacy of Accommodation in. Date of erecting new asylum.
  Qs. Mr. Weir; *As.* Mr. A. J. Balfour, *July 16*, 866.
Ireland—Return of number, age, sex of persons in Irish Asylums in quinquennial periods, proposed.
  Q. Mr. S. Young; *A.* Mr. Wyndham; *July 9*, 146.
Scotland—Public Asylum Officials—Granting Superannuation Allowances to, proposed.
  Q. Sir J. Fergusson; *A.* Mr. G. Murray, *July 13*, 388.

Lundon, Mr. W. [Limerick, E.]
Dalkey Division Court, Holding of in Dalkey, proposed, *July 9*, 158.
Public Audits, Ireland. Establishment of permanent audit office staff at Dublin, *July 13*, 412.

Lundon, Mr. W.—*cont.*
Leaseholds terminable. Introduction of measure to safeguard property paid for by terminable leaseholders, proposed, *July 22*, 1450.
Savings Bank.
  Office and Trustee Savings Banks. Number of banks, number of Depositors in England and Ireland respectively. Facilities in England and Ireland, *July 14*, 578.
  Savings Bank Accounts, Ireland. Accounts kept in London. Advantages of arrangement, *July 13*, 413; *July 14*, 582.
War Office Contracts. Complaint from Dublin Master Tailors' Association with regard to new arrangement for sending in estimates—Enabling Irish tailors to obtain orders proposed, *July 13*, 400.

M'Arthur, Mr. C. [Liverpool, Exchange]
British Ships trading with foreign Countries—Aggregate tonnage, value of Trade of—Further information requested, *July 9*, 155.
Fiscal Inquiry — British Shipping and Foreign Protective Systems, inclusion of questions relating to, within scope of inquiry, *July 9*, 161.

McCrae, Mr. [Edinburgh, E.]
Licensing Acts (Scotland) Consolidation and Amendment Bill, *July 13*, 443, 462.

M'Govern, Mr. [Cavan, W.]
Belturbet Post Office—Acquisition of Site for New Building—Date of commencement of Building operations, *July 9*, 141.
Butter, transit of, from Killeshandra to Scotland—Neglect alleged, *July 10*, 311.
Killeshandra to Scotland—Refusal to give through Rate from Killeshandra to Scotland except via Dublin—Compelling Midland Great Western Railway Company to give through Rate via Belfast, proposed, *July 10*, 309.
Labourers' Cottages in the Cavan Union, Delay in Erection of, cause of delay, present state of Scheme, *July 13*, 394.

McIver, Sir Lewis [Edinburgh, W.]
Irish Land Bill (*Committee*), *July 17*, 1059, 1061, 1063.
Licensing Acts (Scotland) Consolidation and Amendment Bill, *July 13*, 427, 504; *July 21*, 1412, 1413; *July 22*, 1516.

M'Laren, Sir C. [Leicester, Bosworth]
British Shipping Industry—Possible exclusion of British Vessels from Foreign Coasting Trade, Effect of exclusion on Ship-building Industry—Inquiry proposed, *July 20*, 1145.

[*cont.*

M'Laren, Sir C.—*cont.*

Exports, Difference in Value of, in time of brisk and compared with slack trade—Basing Statistics of Exports and Imports in preparation for Fiscal Inquiry, upon tonnage and not fluctuating market values, proposed, *July 20*, 1147.

Fiscal Inquiry, Advice or Information required from Treasury, *July 20*, 1158.

Fiscal Inquiry—Board of Trade Statistics relative to Exports and Imports—Basis of Valuation, *July 20*, 1146.

"Passive Resistance" to the Education Rate—Difficulty in securing services of Auctioneers for Sale of Property levied under distress warrants—Issue of Circular of Instructions to Local Authorities, proposed, *July 20*, 1144.

Woolwich Royal Arsenal Explosion—Permanent Provision for Widows and Orphans of Victims, *July 20*, 1142.

Macnamara, Dr. [Camberwell, N.]

Education Act, Operation of—Abuses of Voluntary System—Training of Pupil Teachers — Number of Children in Classes—Controversy concerning the Control of Denominational Schools—Religious Instruction in Schools—Transference of Management of Church Schools from School Boards to Denominational Managers, *July 9*, 210.

Elementary Schools, Religious Instruction in—Enactment of Local Authorities, providing for the giving of Religious Instruction at end of School Session, proposed—Powers of Local Authority, *July 14*, 579.

Fiscal Inquiry—Inclusion in Inquiry of Question of Colonial Contributions to the Defence of the Empire, proposed, *July 8*, 21.

Housing of the Working Classes—Introduction of Bill dealing with, Date of, *July 8*, 33.

London Education Bill, *July 14*, 587, 593, 598, 606, 621, 637, 647, 650, 663, 674, 681; *July 15*, 723, 724, 727, 732, 734, 737, 742, 747, 754, 767, 771, 785, 786, 791, 800, 814; *July 22*, 1452.

MacNeill, Mr. Swift [Donegal, South.]

Boer Prisoners in Ceylon, Number of, etc., *July 8*, 15.

Cape Ragging Case—Appearance of Two Officers under Constructive Arrest prior to holding of Court-Martial, at Ascot Races—Names of Officers—Action of War Office with regard to Breach of Promise, *July 16*, 859, 933.

Dublin City—Proclamation of, *July 20*, 1233.

Irish Land Bill (*Committee*) *July 8*, 63, 84.

Land Settlement in the Transvaal—Scheme of, Initiated by Mr. Carlis, Position of White Settlers under Scheme, Profits of Mr. Carlis, etc., *July 8*, 15.

MacNeill, Mr. Swift—*cont.*

Lord Milner and the "Johannesburg Leader" — Summary Dismissal of Editorial Staff by Lord Milner, alleged, *July 13*, 400.

Northwich Military Camp — Roman Catholics in—Provision for Roman Catholic Soldiers to attend Divine Service, Neglect of Offer of Dr. Cregan, *July 22*, 1443.

Prior, Lieutenant—Conviction and Fine of, at Marlborough Street Police Court—Remarks of Police Magistrate on Occasion of, *July 16*, 860.

"Staffordshire" — Mock Court-Martial held on the "Staffordshire" alleged, *July 16*, 861.

Tantyen, J. C., Boer Prisoner of War—Sentence passed on, Completion of Term of Imprisonment, Offence for which sentenced, *July 9*, 147.

Maconochie, Mr. [Aberdeenshire, E.]

Army Rations, *July 16*, 964.

M'Crae, Mr. [Edinburgh, East.]

Income Tax Collections in Scotland—Consideration of Time and Method of Collection by Committee on Income Tax—Equalsation of System in England and Scotland, proposed, *July 13*, 404.

MacVeagh, Mr. [Down, South.]

Agriculture and Technical Instruction Department, Ireland—Staff of Board, Remuneration of, *July 9*, 144.

Madras

Workhouse, Location of within precincts of the Presidency Gaol—View of Government of India on Arrangement.
Q. Mr. H. Roberts; *A.* Lord G. Hamilton, *July 20*, 1433.

Magheramorne, Lord

Sat first in Parliament after the Death of his brother, *July 21*, 1247.

Magistrates and Justices of the Peace

Metropolitan Magistrates, Increase in Number of, proposed.
Q. Mr. H. D. Greene; *A.* Mr. Akers-Douglas, *July 14*, 569.

Mail Service

Chinese Mails—Conveyance of Mails from England to China by Trans-Siberian Route, proposed.
Q. Mr. L. Sinclair; *A.* Mr. Austen Chamberlain, *July 16*, 848.

New Zealand Mails and the Cunard Steamship Company—Alleged Refusal of Steamship Company to allow "Campania" to wait for New Zealand Mails—Arrangements with Company for taking on Mails, proposed.
Q. Mr. A. Davies; *A.* Mr. Austen Chamberlain, *July 16*, 847.

Malcolm, Mr. [Suffolk, Stowmarket.]
  Remount Department, *July 16*, 969.
  Vacant Prison Commissionership—Date of Filling Vacancy—Appointment of Civil Servant of Practical Experience, *July 20*, 1149.

Malta
  see Naval Works Bill.

Manchester Corporation Bill
  c. 2R.* *Com.* *July 14*, 562.

Manchester Southern Tramways Bill
  c. Rep.* *July 9*, 133.

Manchuria
  Russian Evacuation of, Date of—Disposal of Customs Revenue collected at Newchwang Port.
    Q. Master of Elibank; *A.* Lord Cranborne, *July 13*, 402.

Mansfield, Mr. [Lincoln, Spalding.]
  Coal Exports. Value of, for 1902, *July 14*, 568.
  Colonial Trade with Great Britain and Foreign Countries, *July 22*, 1447.
  Fiscal Inquiry—Establishment of Fiscal Union between Mother Country and Self-Governing Colonies, *July 14*, 583.
    Inclusion in Inquiry of Necessity of Instituting Legislation to Secure a Minimum Wage, *July 14*, 583.
  London Education Bill, *July 14*, 617, 620, 679; *July 15*, 745, 746, 792, 793.

Marine Store Dealers (Ireland) Bill.
  l. 2R. *July 14*, 558.

Markham, Mr. [Notts, Mansfield.]
  Electric High-Tension Currents on Overhead Wires—Restrictions of Board of Trade with regard to—Cases of installation of currents in England, *July 17*, 1326.
  High Voltage Currents on Bare Wires—Alleged danger of—Inquiry into accidents caused by system of power transmission in foreign countries, proposed, *July 20*, 1148.
  High Voltage Current Overhead Wires—Cases of installation of, in Great Britain, *July 20*, 1147.
  High Voltage Currents on Bare Wires—Memorandum of electrical experts with regard to—Steps taken in view of Memorandum, *July 20*, 1148.
  Licensing Acts (Scotland) Consolidation and Amendment Bill, *July 22*, 1536.
  Savings Bank Deposits in Great Britain and Abroad—Amount deposited per head of the population, *July 15*, 688.
  Transvaal.
    Deportation of British Undesirables—Powers of Lord Milner with regard to—Curbing power of, proposed, *July 9*, 148.

Markham, Mr.—*cont.*
  Transvaal—*cont.*
    Municipal Election Ordinance—Report from Lord Milner on subject of Disallowing Ordinance, proposed, *July 9*, 149.
    Precious Stones Ordinance—Object of Lord Milner in framing Ordinance—Dissenting from such Legislation, proposed, *July 15*, 696.

Marlborough Street Training College (Dublin)
  Condition and Environment of.
    Os. Mr. T. W. Russell, *July 20*, 1168; Mr. T. O'Donnell, *July 20*, 1169; Mr. Sloan, *July 20*, 1191.

Marriage with Foreigners Bill
  c. 1R.* *July 9*, 165.

Maryport Harbour Bill
  c. Rep.* *July 17*, 1022.

Maxwell, Sir Herbert [Wigtonshire]
  Licensing Acts (Scotland) Consolidation and Amendment Bill, *July 13*, 437; *July 21*, 1411; *July 22*, 1534, 1535.

Maynooth College
  see Irish Land Bill.

Mayo
  Piers and Harbours—Report of County Surveyor on—Carrying out Recommendations of the Report, proposed.
    Q. Dr. Ambrose; *A.* Mr. Atkinson, *July 14*, 580.

Mayo, Earl of
  Motor-Cars Bill, *July 14*, 537, 991, 1011.

Meath
  Rate Collector—Suspension of Collector by Meath County Council—Removal of suspension by Local Government Board—Reconsideration of action by Local Government Board, proposed.
    Q. Mr. Kennedy; *A.* Mr. Wyndham, *July 20*, 1154.

Mecca
  Pilgrims to, from Egypt—Number of, on two last pilgrimages—Line of steamers by which required to travel.
    Q. Mr. Weir; *A.* Lord Cranborne, *July 13*, 403.

Medical Officers
  Ireland—Superannuated Officers—Number superannuated, number of cases in which grants were made voluntarily, etc.
    Q. Mr. J. P. Farrell; *A.* Mr. Wyndham, *July 10*, 310.
  Scotland—Parochial Medical Officers—Return Ordered, *July 20*, 1132.

Medicines
Domestic Medicines, Sale of—Withdrawal of concession granted to chemists, relating to—Continuation of concession until amendment of law is made, proposed.
Q. Captain Norton ; *A.* Mr. Elliot, *July 9*, 153.
Government Stamp on Prepared Medicines—Regulation of Board of Inland Revenue with regard to—Necessity for stamping small quantities of medicines, and attaching distinctive names to them.
Qs. Mr. Shaw-Stewart, Sir J. Leng ; *As.* Mr. Elliot, *July 8*, 9.

Members of the House and Criminal Law
see Law in Ireland.

Merchandise Marks Act
Effect on Foreign Imports in Colonies—Repeal of Act proposed.
Q. Mr. D. A. Thomas ; *A.* Mr. J. Chamberlain, *July 16*, 859.

Merchant Shipping
Agreements with American International Mercantile Marine Association and Cunard Company, Completion of, etc.
Qs. Mr. G. Bowles ; *As.* Mr. A. J. Balfour, *July 20*, 1161.
British Shipping Industry—Possible Exclusion of British vessels from foreign coasting trade—Effect of exclusion on shipbuilding industry—Inquiry proposed.
Q. Sir C. M'Laren ; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour, *July 20*, 1145.
British Ships trading between foreign Countries—Aggregate tonnage, value of Trade of—Further information requested.
Q. Mr. C. M'Arthur ; *A.* Mr. B. Law, *July 9*, 155.
British Vessels sold to Foreigners—Return ordered, *July 22*, 1430.
Exports and Re-exports carried by British Ships—Inclusion in statisticts of freights to Ports of destination—Estimate of freight, Amount earned by British Ships, etc.
Q. Colonel Denny ; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour, *July 15*, 687.
Light Dues in the United States, reduction of—Representations to United States on subject of, proposed.
Q. Sir T. Dewar ; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour, *July 16*, 848.
Mercantile Marine Committee, Report of—Carrying out recommendations of, proposed.
Q. Sir C. Dilke ; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour, *July 21*, 1315.
Seamen—Number sent home, cost of repatriation in years 1898-1903—Return proposed.
Q. Sir R. Ropner ; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour, *July 22*, 1435.

Mersey Docks and Harbour Board Bill
c. Rep.* *July* 8, 2.
Com. *July 14*, 562.
3.R.* *July 17*, 1021.
l. Royal Assent, *July 21*, 1246.

Merthyr Tydfil Urban District Council Bill
c. Lords Amendts. con. *July 13*, 385.
l. Royal Assent, *July 21*, 1246.

Metropolitan District Railway
Electric Traction—Establishment of System of—Progress made with regard to.
Q. Mr. Weir ; *A.* Mr. B. Law, *July 8*, 16.

Metropolitan District Railway (Various Powers) Bill
l. 3R.* *July 13*, 373.
c. Lords' Amendts. con. *July 17*, 1021.
l. Royal Assent, *July 21*, 1246.

Metropolitan Police Provisional Order Bill
l. Com. *July 16*, 817.

Metropolitan Streets Bill
Considered in Committee, July 8, 120.
Collections in Public Streets, question of, 121, 124.
Home Secretary, authority of, 121, 123.
Metropolitan Street Acts, scope of, 121, 123.
Police, powers of, 121, 123.
Traffic, control of, 121.
l. 1R.* *July 20*, 1129.
2R. *July 21*, 1293.

Middlemore Mr. [Birmingham, N.]
Secondary Education, Inadequate provision for—Necessity for additional grants, *July 9*, 237.

Middlesborough Corporation Bill
l. 3R.* *July 16*, 818.
c. Lords Amendts. con. *July 22*, 1429.

Midland and Belfast and Northern Counties Railways Bill
l. 3R.* *July 13*, 374.
c. Lords Amendts. con. *July 17*, 1021.
l. Royal Assent, *July 21*, 1246.

Midland Great Western Railway Company
Killeshandra to Scotland. Transit of Butter, alleged neglect.
Q. Mr. M'Govern ; *A.* Mr. Wyndham, *July 10*, 311.
Refusal to give through Rate from Killeshandra to Scotland, except via Dublin. Compelling Company to give through Rate via Belfast, proposed.
Q. Mr. M'Govern ; *A.* Mr. Wyndham, *July 10*, 309.

Midland Great Western Railway of Ireland Bill
l. 3R.* *July 14*, 517.
c. Lords' Amendts. Con. *July 20*, 1129.

Mid-Yorkshire Tramways Bill
c. Rep.* *July 17*, 1022.

Military Lands Bill
Debate on Second Reading [L.] *July 21*, 1249.
County and Borough Councils Acquisition of land by, 1249, 1250, 1251, 1253, 1254.
Military Lands Acts, Proposed Amendment of, 1249, 1251, 1255.
Ranges, Acquisition of land for making, 1250, 1254.
Ratepayers, Responsibility of, 1250, 1253, 1254, 1255.
War Office, Position of, 1250, 1255.

Military Lands Provisional Orders Bill
l. Royal Assent, *July 21*, 1245.

Military Works Bill
Gross Amount to be asked for, in respect of Military Works.
Q. Mr. G. Bowles; *A.* Mr. Brodrick, *July 21*, 1307.
c. Ordered, *July 22*, 1560.
c. 1R* *July 22*, 1560.

Military Works (Consolidated Fund)
Considered in Committee [C.] *July 21*, 1379.
Amount required, 1380, 1382, 1384, 1385, 1389, 1390, 1393, 1394.
Barracks for Troops, 1380, 1382, 1387.
Defence Works, Cost of, 1379.
Housing of Troops, Money required for, 1380, 1387, 1395.
Hutting of Troops, *see* South Africa (sub-heading.)
Loan, Defence works to be carried out by, 1379, 1391.
Royal Engineers, Building by, 1386.
South Africa, Hutting of Troops in, 1380, 1383, 1386, 1387, 1388, 1391, 1393, 1395, 1396.
Storehouses, Money for, 1384.

Militia
Appointments to the Army from the Militia—New Regulations with regard to—Nature of Entrance Examination, etc
Q. Mr. S. Evans; *A.* Mr. Brodrick, *July 22*, 1439.
Officers—Possibility of obtaining "Pass School" Certificate without going through London Barracks.
Q. Mr. Partington; *A.* Mr. Brodrick, *July 14*, 571.
Regulations relating to, Presented, *July 20*, 1094, 1131.

Mill Hill
Telephonic Communication at, Establishment of—Approximate date of.
Q. Mr. Moon; *A.* Mr. Austen Chamberlain, *July 10*, 310.

"Minerva," H.M.S.
Repairs of, Time expended on—Mileage run on Trials and Commissions.
Q. Colonel Denny; *A.* Mr. Arnold-Forster, *July 14*, 564.

Mill Holdings
see Irish Land Bill.

Milner, Lord
Johannesburg Leader — Summary Dismissal of Editorial Staff by Lord Milner, alleged.
Qs. Mr. S. MacNeill; *As.* Mr. J. Chamberlain, *July 13*, 400.

Model Schools
see Education in Ireland.

Monaghan
Union Hospitals in—Return of Nurses and their Qualifications in, proposed.
Q. Dr. Thompson; *A.* Mr. Wyndham, *July 9*, 145.

Montagu of Beaulieu, Lord
Motor-Cars Bill (*Committee*), *July 17*, 984, 1012, 1015.

Moon, Mr. (St. Pancras, N.)
London Education Bill, *July 15*, 802.
Mill Hill, Telephonic Communication at, Establishment of, Approximate date of, *July 10*, 310.

Morley, Earl of
Military Lands Bill, *July 21*, 1251.

Mortgage of Premises Bill
c. 1R.* *July 21*, 1321.

Motor Cars
Gordon-Bennett Cup Race—Breakdown of Telegraphic Arrangements at Dublin—Inadequacy of Arrangements to meet pressure, alleged.
Q. Mr. Nanetti; *A.* Mr. Austen Chamberlain, *July 15*, 690.
Delay in Telegraph Messages, Cause of—Particulars of Receipts and Expenditure on Press Telegrams.
Q. Mr. J. O'Connor; *A.* Mr. Austen Chamberlain, *July 8*, 10.
Telegraphic Arrangements, Breakdown of—Provision of Extra Staff at Dublin, etc.
Q. Mr. J. P. Farrell; *A.* Mr. Austen Chamberlain, *July 8*, 29.
Motor Mails—Issue of Speed Regulations, Adoption of System of Speed Registration, proposed.
Q. Mr. C. Wason; *A.* Mr. Austen Chamberlain, *July 13*, 389.

[*cont.*

Motor Cars—*cont.*
  Prosecutions under Section 5 of the Summary Jurisdiction Act.
    Q. Lord Heneage; *A.* Lord Balfour of Burleigh, *July 21*, 1293.
  Tyres—Regulation of Size of—Authority empowered to make Regulations, etc.
    Q. Mr. H. Hobhouse; *A.* Mr. W. Long, *July 13*, 392.

Motor Cars Bill [H.L.]
  Debate on Second Reading [L.] *July 14*, 523, 558.
    Agricultural Considerations, 529, 541.
    Bicycles—Question of Motor, 534.
    Certificates of Competency for Drivers, 1016, 1017.
    County Councils *see* Local Authorities (subheading).
    Dust, Annoyance from, 532, 544, 554.
    Licences for Drivers of Cars, 524, 536, 538, 540, 543, 546.
    Local Authorities, Control of, 525, 535, 547, 549, 555.
    Maximum Speed, *see* Speed Limit (subheading)
    Motor Industry, Consideration of, 523, 536, 537, 542.
    Police, Power and Responsibility of, 533, 539.
    Reckless Driving, 527, 538, 542, 549.
  Considered in Committee, July 17, 976; *July 21*, 1256.
    Registered Number for Cars, 534, 541, 550.
    Speed Limit, Question of, 525, 532, 539, 540, 541, 551, 556.
    Accidents, Penalties for driving away after, 1272, 1273, 1274.
    Age of Licencees, 1013.
    Bicycles, Regulations for Motor, 1291.
    Certificates of Competency, 1016, 1017, 1258, 1259, 1260, 1261, 1262, 1263, 1264, 1265, 1266.
    County Council, *see* Local Authorities (subheading.)
    Engines of Stationery Car in Motion, Cases of, 1001.
    Excessive Power, Prohibition of Cars of, 1275, 1276.
    Foreigners' Licences, 1257, 1259, 1260, 1263, 1265.
    Licences.
      Drivers, Qualifications for, 1012.
      Endorsements, 1267.
      Physically incapable, Not to be granted to those, 1268, 1269, 1270.
      Residents in County where licence is to be taken out, only to be granted to, 1256, 1257.

Motor Cars Bill [H.L.]—*cont.*
  Considered in Committee—cont.
    Local Authorities, Power of, 978, 979, 994, 1008, 1014, 1015.
    Local Government Board, Power of, 1277, 1285.
    Names and addresses of Motorists, 1005.
    "Owner," Definition of, 982, 984, 985.
    Petty Sessions, Summons for furious driving at, 1290.
    Police, Authority of, 1002, 1003, 1004, 1261.
    Punishments, Graduation of, 1288, 1289, 1290.
    Reckless Driving, 977, 979, 980, 983, 987, 996, 998.
    Registered Numbers of Cars, 1010, 1011.
    Registration Fees, Amount of, 1010, 1011.
    Roads included in the Act, 986.
    Speed Limit, 976, 987, 990, 991, 992, 993, 994, 996, 997, 1006, 1007, 1008, 1009, 1279, 1280, 1281, 1284, 1285, 1286.

Mounted Infantry
  See War Office.

Mount Pleasant Factory
  Basket Shop Staff at Mount Pleasant Factory, Reductions in, reason for. Repair of baskets by private firms.
    Q. Captain Norton; *A.* Mr. Austen Chamberlain, *July 14*, 569.

Mullingar
  Rifle Range, Extension of. Approval of Military Authorities—Delay in proceeding with work, cause of.
    Q. Mr. Hayden; *A.* Mr. Brodrick, *July 21*, 1304.

Munster
  Representation of, on Congested Districts Board, in event of Vacancy on Board.
    Qs. Mr. Flavin, and Mr. Gilhooly; *As.* Mr. Wyndham, *July 13*, 408.

Murphy, Mr. [Kerry, E.]
  Congested Districts Board, Ireland—Appointment of Chairman of Kerry District Council to next Vacancy on Board, *July 20*, 1137.
  Irish Land Bill (*Committee*), *July 8*, 45.

Murray, Colonel W. [Bath]
  Executions, Extorted Confessions at, Duty of Chaplain, *July 16*, 851.

Murray, Rt. Hon. Graham—*Lord Advocate* [Buteshire]
  Fifeshire, Pollution of Rivers in—Proposed Inquiry into Pollution of Black Devon, *July 21*, 1316.

[*cont.*

Murray, Rt. Hon. Graham—*cont.*
- Highland Weaving Industry. Encouragement given to, by Congested Districts Board, Results of, *July 21*, 1316.
- Licensing Acts (Scotland) Consolidation and Amendment Bill, *July 13*, 419, 420, 423, 427, 434, 436, 442, 444, 445, 446, 451, 453, 461, 462, 466, 467, 469, 470, 475, 476, 477, 481, 484, 486, 489, 490, 491, 492, 495, 496, 498, 499, 501, 504, 506, 512, 515; *July 21*, 1399, 1403, 1408, 1410, 1413, 1421, 1422, 1423, 1424; *July 22*, 1508, 1511, 1514, 1519, 1520, 1523, 1530, 1533, 1536, 1546.
- Orkney Fisheries Petition for carrying out recommendations of Fisheries Commissioner, to be considered, *July 9*, 138.
- Physical Training in Scotland—Recommendation of Royal Commission as to adding medical experts to inspecting staff of Scotch Education Department.—Decision with regard to carrying out of not yet arrived at, *July 13*, 389.
- Scottish Public Lunatic Asylum official.—Proposed grant of superannuation allowances to, *July 13*, 388.
- Whitehill Light, Erection of, to be completed before winter, *July 9*, 138.

Nannetti, Mr. [Dublin, College Green]
- Dublin Post Office—Competitive examinations for appointments—Recommendation of Tweedmouth Commission with regard to, not carried out—Bringing into force of scheme at early date, proposed, *July 15*, 689.
  - Holiday Scheme, Adoption of new scheme, *July 16*, 870.
- Dublin Sorting Office—Bank Holidays, privileges with regard to, withheld under new leave regulations—Reversion to former system, proposed, *July 21*, 1318.
  - Holiday Grievance—Memorial from Dublin Sorting Office—Delay in answer to—Expediting reply, proposed, *July 21*, 1319.
- Dublin Telegraph Office—Breakdown of Telegraphic Arrangements at Dublin on occasion of Gordon-Bennet Cup Race—Inadequacy of arrangements to meet pressure, alleged, *July 15*, 690.
  - Male Dining-room at—Petitions with regard to Management of—Decisions not shown to Staff. Reason for Omision, *July 15*, 690.
- Gordon-Bennett Race — Destruction of Films in the Post—Complaint of Empire Palace Theatre Company—Compensation for Loss, *July 20*, 1155.
- Liffey, Pollution of—Discontinuance of Practice, proposed, *July 20*, 1153.
- Post Office—Wages Committee of Inquiry—Acceptance of Evidence regarding Trippage Allowances on Travelling Post Offices, *July 16*, 867.

Nantwich Urban District Council Bill
- *c.* 3R.* *July 9*, 133.
- *l.* Royal Assent, *July 21*, 1246.

National Debt
- Sinking Fund—Estimated amount to be devoted to, in year 1903-4—Aggregate amount to be spent on capital account.
  - *Q.* Mr. W. Churchill; *A.* Mr. Ritchie, *July 21*, 1313.

Naval Attaché
- Additional Attaché, Appointment of, to what country accredited, etc.
  - *Q.* Mr. Yerburgh; *A.* Mr. Arnold-Forster, *July 20*, 1137.

Naval Works Bill
- *Debate on Second Reading* [C.] *July 10*, 311.
  - Bermuda, Progress of Works at, 313.
  - Berthing Committee, Report of, 323, 331.
  - Britannia Naval College, 319.
  - Canal from Clyde to Forth, proposed, 342, 352.
  - Chatham, Extension of Works at, 315, 319, 323, 331, 342, 346.
  - Coastguard Stations, 322, 347.
  - Colombo, Progress of Work at, 313, 355.
  - Dockyards—
    - Electricity, 320, 340, 347.
    - Extension of, 326, 331.
    - Personnel, 321, 365.
  - Expenditure on Naval Works, 312, 334, 338, 343, 346, 349, 353.
  - Firth of Forth Base, *see* Rosyth (subheading).
  - Gibraltar, Progress of Works at, 314, 346, 355.
  - Gunnery Schools, 322.
  - Hong-Kong, Progress of Works at, 313, 315.
  - Infiltration, 313.
  - Keyham, Dockyard Extension at, 317, 319, 337.
  - Malta Breakwater, 311.
  - Mineral Rights, 366.
  - Naval Barracks, Construction of, 319.
  - Osborne, Naval College at, 328, 329.
  - Portsmouth Barracks, 314.
  - Price of Land acquired, 348, 354, 359, 360, 362.
  - Repairs to Destroyers, 321, 342.
  - Rosyth, Naval Base at, 325, 328, 331, 334, 342, 343, 345, 347, 351, 354, 457.
  - Scotland, Naval Base in, *see* Rosyth (subheading).
  - Sheerness, Works at, 318, 321.
  - Simon's Dock, Works at, 313, 355.
  - Torpedo Ranges, Construction of, 322, 341.

Naval Works (Portsmouth Barracks Site) Bill
c. 1R.* *July 14*, 587.

Navy
Australian Squadron, Estimated Cost of—Colonial Contribution to Annual Expenditure.
Q. Mr. C. Wason; *A.* Mr. Arnold-Forster, *July 20*, 1142.
Royal Naval Reserve, Maintenance of, out of Australian Contribution.
Q. Mr. C. Wason; *A.* Mr. Arnold-Forster, *July 20*, 1142.
New Naval Base—Consideration of question of enlarging the Forth and Clyde Canal, Publication of report on cost and time required for work, proposed.
Q. Mr. Pirie; *A.* Mr. A. J. Balfour, *July 13*, 414.
New Naval Base on Firth of Forth—Examination of Forth and Clyde Canal with view to enlargement.
Q. Mr. Pirie; *A.* Mr. Pretyman, *July 8*, 14.
Summer Cruises—Cruises of training vessel to Lochbroom, Ross-shire, during present summer.
Q. Mr. Weir; *A.* Mr. Pretyman, *July 8*, 14.
Training in the Navy, Inclusion of Diving and Swimming in—Regulations with regard to.
Q. Sir John Leng; *A.* Mr. Arnold-Forster, *July 22*, 1435.

Nelson Corporation Bill
c. *Lords' Amendts. con.* *July 9*, 133.
l. Royal Assent, *July 21*, 1246.

Nenagh
Cottage Scheme—Case of J. Quigley—Reconsideration of, proposed.
Qs. Mr. P. J. O'Brien; *As.* Mr. Wyndham, *July 13*, 411.

Newcastle-upon-Tyne Electric Supply Bill
l. 3R.* *July 13*, 1093.

New Hunstanton Improvement Bill
l. Royal Assent, *July 21*, 1246.

Nolan, Colonel [Galway, N.]
Irish Land Bill (*Committee*), *July 8*, 79, 98.

Non-Provided Schools.
see London Education Bill.

Norman, Mr. [Wolverhampton, S.]
Irish Land Bill (3R.) *July 21*, 1372.
Schools, Inspection of, *July 9*, 264.

Northbrook, Earl of
India and the South African Garrison—Proposal to place Portion of Cost of, on Revenues of India—Benefit of Troops in South Africa to India doubtful—Garrison to be composed of young inexperienced men—Assistance rendered by India in South African War, etc., Tribute to—Presentation of Papers proposed, *July 20*, 1108.

Northbrook, Earl of—*cont.*
Motor Cars Bill (*Committee*) *July 21*, 1284, 1290, 1291.
Preferential Tariffs, *July 10*, 272.

North Metropolitan Electric Power Supply Bill
l. 2R.* *July 9*, 125.
Com. *July 16*, 817.

North-Western Electricity and Power Gas Bill
c. 2R.* *Com.* *July 13*, 388.

Northwich
Military Camp, Roman Catholics in—Provision for Roman Catholic Soldiers to attend Divine Service—Neglect of Offer of Dr. Cregan.
Q. Mr. S. MacNeill; *A.* Lord Stanley, *July 22*, 1443.

Norton, Captain [Newington, West]
Army Contract—Alleged Infringement of Fair Wage Resolution, *July 21*, 1305.
Domestic Medicines, Sale of—Withdrawal of Concession granted to Chemists, relating to—Continuation of Concession until Amendment of Law is made, proposed, *July 9*, 153.
Mount Pleasant Basket Shop Staff—Reductions in, Reason for—Repair of Baskets by Private Firms, *July 14*, 569.
Royal Military College Cadets—Training of, after leaving College, Arrangements for Continuation of and Obviating Delay in Gazetting, *July 21*, 1305.
Upton, Charles.—Customs Watcher—Granting Pension to, proposed, *July 21*, 1302.

Norwood Poor Law Schools
Illness at—Report of Medical Officer on—Expenditure on schools sanctioned by Local Government Board—Publication of Report, proposed.
Q. Sir J. Gorst; *A.* Mr. W. Long, *July 16*, 852.

Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire Tramways Bill
c. Rep.* *July 10*, 304.
c. *Con.* *July 20*, 1130.

O'Brien, Mr. J. F. X. [Cork]
Church of Scotland—Resolution of General Assembly and the Confession of Faith—Steps to be taken with regard to, *July 20*, 1150.

O'Brien, Mr. P. [Kilkenny]
Central Telegraph Office, Holidays in—Compelling Senior Clerks to take holidays in March, alleged, *July 22*, 1435.
Central Telegraph Office, Tube Attendants, Promotion of, *July 22*, 1436.
Oxford Street Postal Telegraph Office—Sanitary Condition of—Date on which lease expires, *July 9*, 140.

O'Brien, Mr. P. J. [Tipperary, North]
Arrests under Criminal Law and Procedure Act at Borrisaleigh, Co. Tipperary — Circumstances leading to — Change of venue and order for special trial, authority for, Intimation of to accused, etc., *July 8*, 12.
Borrisaleigh, County Tipperary—Case of Stapleton, Delany, and Carroll—Application of executive for special jury and change of venue, grounds for application, *July 13*, 409.
Cork Assizes instead of being tried at Nenagh, Men sent, *July 20*, 1224.
Nenagh Cottage Scheme — Case of J. Quigley — Re-consideration of, proposed, *July 13*, 411.

O'Brien, Mr. William [Cork]
Irish Land Bill (*Committee*) *July 8*, 39; *July 17*, 1044, 1051, 1052.
3R. *July 21*, 1349.

O'Connor, Mr. J. [Wicklow, West]
Assistant Head Postmen—Case of W. Mason of Clapham, *July 17*, 1028.
British Postal Servants from South Africa, Reinstatement of, *July 22*, 1437.
Gordon-Bennett Cup Race. Delay in Telegraph Messages, Cause of. Particulars of Receipts and Expenditure on Press Telegrams, *July 8*, 10.
Postman J. Black—Delay in supplying Uniform to—Compensation for use of private clothes, *July 9*, 142.
Postmen's Allowances—Allowances other than supervising allowances—Number in receipt of, amount expended, *July 22*, 1436.
Royal Visit to Ireland—Introduction of Bill repealing Criminal Law and Procedure (Ireland) Act, 1887, prior to, proposed, *July 9*, 159.
Telegraph Service Employees—Maximum salary promised by Civil Service Commissioners to Candidates, *July 9*, 141.
Wicklow Land Cases—Delay in hearing—Cause of delay, *July 15*, 701.

O'Connor, Mr. T. P. [Liverpool, Scotland]
Irish Land Bill (*Committee*), *July 8*, 70, 120; *July 17*, 1070.

O'Donnell, Mr. T. [Kerry, West]
Foreign Trawlers in Dingle Bay—Conduct of—Steps for punishment of owners of trawlers, proposed, *July 14*, 580.
Irish gun Licence—Refusal of licence to P. Courane, Castlemaine — Grounds for Refusal, *July 13*, 410.
Irish National Schools—Oral Examinations in Irish — Appointment of additional Examiners, proposed, *July 20*, 1152.
Irish Post Offices, Exhibition of Emigration Notices in—Removal of, proposed, *July 9*, 160.

O'Donnell, Mr. T.—*cont.*
Kerry and the Congested Districts Board—Demand for Representation of Kerry on Board—Appointment of Resident of Kerry to next vacancy on Board, proposed, *July 20*, 1152.
Kerry unrepresented on the Board—Representation of Kerry at next vacancy, *July 21*, 1317.
Kerry Potato-Growing Industry—Assistance rendered by Congested Districts Board, *July 9*, 157.
Labourers (Ireland) Acts—Allocation of Portion of Credit to Counties which have spent all available Exchequer Contribution, proposed, *July 15*, 701.
Marlborough Street Training College (Dublin), Condition and Environment of—Failure of General Educational System in Ireland — Staffing and Management of Irish Schools—Condition of School Children—Teachers' Pensions, *July 20*, 1169.

O'Dowd, Mr. [Sligo, South]
Contempt of Court, Ireland—Introduction of Legislation to amend present Law relating to Contempt of Court, during present Session, *July 8*, 32.
Extra Police at Sligo, Cost of—Relieving Ratepayers of Payment of Tax, proposed, *July 20*, 1153.
Grazing Farms in Congested Districts Ireland, purchased by money advanced by Land Commission to Non-residents of District—Provision in Irish Land Bill with regard to, *July 13*, 412.
Law in Ireland, Administration of—Penalisation under Coercion Régime, *July 20*, 1229.
Sligo, Extra Police at—Application of Government to County Council for payment of cost of—Means for Relieving Ratepayers of Additional Tax, *July 16*, 868.
The Acres, Dromahair—Affidavit of Mr. S. Gillmor to the effect that he was Tenant of the Lands of, for purpose of obtaining advance from Land Commission – Sworn Inquiry, proposed, *July 20*, 1150.

O'Kelly, Mr. [Mayo, N.]
Belmullet and Mallaranny Steamer Service—Nature of inquiries made in connection with, *July 13*, 410.
Irish Land Bill (*Committee*), *July 8*, 99, 105.
Law in Ireland — Penalisation under Coercion Act, *July 20*, 1230.

O'Malley, Mr. [Galway, Connemara]
Car Fare from Letterfrack to Clifden—Increase of Fare charged to Police, alleged, *July 16*, 855.

O'Mara Mr. [Kilkenny, South]
  Irish Intermediate Education—Examination Standard — Reduction of pass standard for examination in 1903, proposed, *July 9*, 146.
  Military Works (Consolidated Fund), *July 21*, 1390.

Onslow, Earl of, President, Board of Agriculture
  Motor Cars Bill (*Committee*), *July 21*, 1265.

Orkney
  Fisheries—Petition from County Council for carrying out of recommendations of Fisheries Commissioner.
    Q. Mr. C. Wason; *A.* Mr. G. Murray, *July 9*, 138.

Ormsby-Gore, Mr. S. [Shropshire, Oswestry]
  Gainsborough Vaccination Prosecutions, Action of Officers—Support of Action by Local Government Board, proposed, *July 13*, 392.

Orr-Ewin, Mr. [Ayr Burghs]
  Indian Army—Young Officers joining Regiments in India—Embarkation or, during the Trooping Season only, proposed, *July 15*, 694.
  Trade to East African Protectorate—Recommendation of H.M. Commissioner with regard to Subsidisation of British Steamships trading with East African Protectorate, *July 20*, 1135.

Osborne Naval College
  see Naval Works Bill.

O'Shee, Mr. [Waterford, W.]
  Irish Land Bill (*Committee*) *July 8*, 37, 38, 47, 48, 91, 92, 94. *July 17*, 1085.

Out-door Relief.
  Non-resident Out-door Relief—Rendering distribution of non-resident out-door Relief obligatory, proposed.
    Q. Mr. H. Samuel. *A.* Mr. W. Long. *July 15*, 687.

Out-door Relief (Pensioners) Bill.
  Debate on Second Reading [L.], *July 16*, 834.
    Army and Navy Servants—Relief for. 834, 835.
    Board of Guardians—Authority of. 834.
    Pensions—Amount of. 834.
    Poor Law System — Attempted Reforms of. 835, 836.
    Workhouses—Effect of soldiers and sailors in. 834, 837.

Packed Juries.
  see Law in Ireland.

Parliament
  House of Lords—Sat First in Parliament. Magheramorne, Lord, *July 21*, 1247.

Parliamentary and Electoral Reform Bill
  c. 1R.* *July 21*, 1321.

Parliamentary Procedure
  New Rules of Procedure—Opportunity for debating new Rules as yet undebated—Granting of Select Committee of Inquiry, proposed.
    Qs. Dr. Farquharson; *As.* Mr. A. J. Balfour, *July 9*, 163.
  Twelve O'Clock Rule—No fresh Bills to be brought on, under, *July 16*, 872.
    Suspension of—at early date, alleged, *July 16*, 871.
  Votes and Proceedings—Erroneous Entry, alleged, the Chairman having acted contrary to the Regulation of Standing Order No. 30, *July 10*, 302.

Partington, Mr. [Derbyshire, High Peak]
  Imports into British Colonies and Possessions from Foreign Countries —Value of manufactured goods, etc., *July 14*, 567.
  Imports into British Colonies and Possessions from Foreign Countries —Value of manufactured goods, raw material and food stuffs respectively, in 1901, *July 20*, 1132.
  "Pass School" Certificates for Militia and Volunteer Officers — Possibility of obtaining certificate without going through London Barracks, *July 14*, 571.

Patriotic Fund
  Widows and other dependents of those losing their lives in the service of the Crown, Provision for.
    Os. Mr. Pretyman, *July 20*, 1164; Mr. Kearley, *July 20*, 1167.

Patriotic Fund Bill
  Bill put down for day allotted to Supply.
    Q. Mr. Galloway; *A.* Mr. Speaker, *July 20*, 1163.
  Object of Bill, Statement of, *July 20*, 1164.
  c. Ordered, *July 20*, 1168.
    1R.* *July 20*, 1168.

Patriotic Fund, Royal Commission
  Action of Secretary—Introduction of Bill dealing with Patriotic Commission during present session.
    Q. Mr. Galloway; *A.* Mr. A. J. Balfour, *July 15*, 704.
  Report of Royal Commissioners, Presented, *July 9*, 128; *July 14*, 563.

Paupers
  Interment of Body washed ashore at Melford Beach, Devon—Cost of Funeral, Payment of extra charges by Overseers of Hartland.
    Q. Mr. Soares; *A.* Mr. W. Long, *July 9*, 142.

Pease, Mr. Pike [Darlington]
Licensing Acts (Scotland) Consolidation and Amendment Bill, *July 13*, 429.

Peel, Mr. [Manchester, S.]
London Education Bill, *July 14*, 615, 616, 645, 646, 647; *July 15*, 713, 723, 724.

Penrhyn, Lord
Sale of Land to, Consideration received by Crown, etc.
Q. Mr. C. Wason; *A.* Mr. Elliot, *July 20*, 1144.

Pensions
Retired Army Officers Re-employed during South African War — Increase of Pension.
Q. Mr. Pirie; *A.* Mr. Brodrick, *July 22*, 1439.

Pentillie Estate Bill
c. 2R.* *Com.* * *July 20*, 1130.

Percy, Earl—*Under Secretary for India* [Kensington, South]
Assam Coolie Riot — No official information with regard to, *July 22*, 1444.
Assam Excise Administration—Report of inquiry not yet received — Impossibility to give information to the House before the end of the Session, *July 15*, 697.
Brussels Sugar Convention and India—Government of India—Attitude of, towards Convention, *July 21*, 1313.

Perks Mr. [Lincolnshire, Louth]
Vivisection Experiments without anæsthetics—Feeding experiments, inclusion in, of starving and overfeeding animals — Experiments authorised by Home Office, *July 22*, 1438.

Persia
Commercial Convention between United Kingdom and Persia Presented. *July 9*, 127, 136.

Perth Corporation (Tramways) Order Confirmation Bill
l. 3R.* *July 21*, 1248.

Petty Sessions
see Motor-Cars Bill.

Physical Training in Elementary Schools
Introduction of Scientific System of Training, Consideration by H.M. Government.
Q. Mr. Priestley; *A.* Mr. A. J. Balfour, *July 15*, 693.

Physical Training in England and Wales
Suggested Royal Commission—Consideration of, by H.M. Government.
Q. Mr. Priestley; *A.* Mr. A. J. Balfour, *July 15*, 693.

Pier and Harbour Provisional Orders (No. 2) Bill
l. 2R.* *Com. July 9*, 126.
Com. * *July 10*, 271.
3R.* *July 14*, 519.
c. Lords Amendts. con. * *July 17*, 1021.

Pier and Harbour Provisional Orders (No. 3) Bill
l. 2R.* *Com.* * *July 9*, 126.
Com. * *July 10*, 271.
3R.* *July 14*, 519.
c. Lords Amendts. con. * *July 17*, 1021.

Pier and Harbour Provisional Orders (No. 4) Bill
l. 2R.* *Com.* * *July 9*, 126.
Com. * *July 10*, 271.
3R.* *July 14*, 519.
c. Lords Amendts. con. * *July 17*, 1021.

Pier and Harbour Provisional Orders (No. 5) Bill
l. 2R.* *Com.* * *July 9*, 126.
3R.* *July 17*, 974.
c. Lords Amendts. con. * *July 21*, 1295.

Pier and Harbour Provisional Orders (No. 6) Bill
l. 2R.* *Com.* * *July 9*, 126.
Com. * *Rep.* * *July 10*, 271.
3R.* *July 13*, 374.
Royal Assent, *July 21*, 1245.

Piers and Harbours
Innishlyre Harbour—Consultation with Westport Harbour Commissioners as to site of new harbour, Resolution of Commissioners.
Q. Dr. Ambrose; *A.* Mr. Wyndham, *July 16*, 868.
Mayo Co.—Condition of Piers in—Report of County Surveyor on—Carrying out of Improvements recommended.
Q. Dr. Ambrose; *A.* Mr. Wyndham, *July 8*, 27.
Mayo—Report of County Surveyor on—Carrying out recommendations of the Report proposed.
Q. Dr. Ambrose; *A.* Mr. Atkinson, *July 14*, 580.

Pirie, Mr. (Aberdeen, North.)
Army Corps—First Army Corps, 3rd Division, Formation of, strength, etc.—Fifth and Sixth Corps, formation of, *July 13*, 399.
Army Veterinary Department—Strength of, as compared with establishment, *July 13*, 397.
County Council Clerks acting as Parliamentary Agents—Communication to County Councils with view to discontinuing practice, proposed, *July 9*, 156
Fish, Destruction of—at Billingsgate and Aberdeen—Total Amount destroyed in England and Scotland during 1902, *July 8*, 17.
Forth and Clyde Canal—Consideration of Question of, by Committee of Defence, *July 15*, 702.
Licensing Acts (Scotland) Consolidation and Amendment Bill, *July 13*, 506; *July 21*, 1417.
Majors serving away from their Regiments, Number of *July 13*, 396.
Naval Works Bill, *July 10*, 365.

[*cont.*

Pirie, Mr.—*cont.*
- New Naval Base — Consideration of, question of enlarging the Forth and Clyde Canal, publication of Report on cost and time required for work, proposed, *July 13*, 414.
- New Naval Base on Firth of Forth—Examination of Forth and Clyde Canal with view to enlargement, *July 8*, 14.
- Retired Army Officers Re-employed during South African War — Increase of pension, *July 22*, 1439.
- Royal Commission on South African War, Date of publication of Report, *July 16*, 869.
- Royal Scots Fusiliers, 2nd Battalion, South African War Medal not yet distributed to, Cause of delay, etc., *July 15*, 693.
- Scottish County Council Clerks as Election Agents, Discontinuance of practice, proposed, *July 13*, 409.
- Somaliland Military Expedition, British and Native Losses, *July 13*, 397.
- Staff Officers—Army Regulations with regard to regimental duty, Disregard of, *July 13*, 399.
- War Office Expenditure, Protest against —Necessity for reforms—Explanation of appointments and promotion requested—Distribution of rewards and honours—Cape "Ragging" case—Present system of recruiting, *July 16*, 873.

Pistols Bill.
- *Statement on Second Reading* [L.], *July 9*, 129–131.
  - Age of persons purchasing pistols, 131.
  - Fines for sale of pistols to irresponsible persons, 131.
  - Game or Gun licence, Production of—130.
  - Intoxicated and insane persons—131.
  - Police, Records of sales to be open to—130.
  - Record of sale of pistols, 130.
- *l. Com.** Rep* *July 10*, 272.

Platt-Higgins Mr. [Salford, North.]
- Schools, Religious instruction in By-law authorising withdrawal of children from school till after time of Religious instruction, modification of, proposed, *July 22* 1437.
- Soldiers Serving Abroad, Cost of Telegrams —Arrangements for lessening expenses, proposed, *July 13*, 396.

Plummer, Mr. [Newcastle-on-Tyne.]
- Naval Works Bill, *July 10*, 351.

Police Burghs.
- *see* Licensing Acts (Scotland) Consolidation and Amendment Bill.

Pontypridd Urban District Council Bill
- *c.* 3R.*, *July 10*, 303.
- *l.* Royal Assent, *July 21*, 1246.

Poplar
- New Poor Law Schools at—Sanction of Local Government Board to proposed expenditure on erection of.
  - *Q.* Sir J. Gorst; *A.* Mr. W. Long, *July 16*, 853.

Population
- Agricultural Population, Decrease in, Cause of.
  - *Q.* Mr. D. A. Thomas; *A.* Mr. W. Long, *July 16*, 853.

Poole and District Electric Traction Bill
- *c.* Rep.* *July 10*, 304.
- *con.** *July 17*, 1021.
- 3R.*, *July 21*, 1294.

Poor Law
- *see* Outdoor Relief (Pensioners) Bill.

Poor Law Schools and Institutions
- New Poor Law Schools at Poplar, Sanction of Local Government Board to propose expenditure on erection of.
  - *Q.* Sir J. Gorst; *A.* Mr. W. Long. *July 16*, 853.
- Norwood Schools, Illness at—Report of Medical Officer on Expenditure on Schools Sanctioned by Local Government Board. Publication of Report proposed.
  - *Q.* Sir J. Gorst; *A.* Mr. W. Long, *July 16*, 852.

Portarlington
- Post Office, Blane, Maria, Case of—Retirement without pension or gratuity, Grounds for.
  - *Q.* Mr. Delany; *A.* Mr. Austen Chamberlain, *July 14*, 581.

Porthcawl
- Rifle Range, Utilisation of, for field-firing.
  - *Q.* Mr. Fuller; *A.* Lord Stanley; *July 16*, 861.

Port of Ness Harbour.
- Damages done to Breakwater by Storm—Report on Extent of, Decision as to Repair.
  - *Q.* Mr. Weir; *A.* Mr. S. Dickson, *July 8*, 26.

Portsmouth.
- Dockyard—Annual Cost of.
  - *Q.* Mr. Buchanan; *A.* Mr. Pretyman, *July 15*, 696.
- Dockyard Employees—Number in receipt of Wages, Number of Vacant Slips.
  - *Q.* Sir C. Dilke; *A.* Mr. Arnold-Forster, *July 15*, 695.

Port Talbot Railway and Docks Bill.
- *c. con.** *July 8*, 1.
- 3R.* *July 13*, 385.
- *l.* Royal Assent, *July 21*, 1246.

Postmen

Allowances other than Supervising Allowances—Number in receipt of, Amount expended.
Q. Mr. J. O'Connor; *A.* Mr. Austen Chamberlain, *July 22*, 1436.

Assistant Head Postmen—Case of C. W. Mason, of Clapham.
Q. Mr. J. O'Connor; *A.* Mr. Austen Chamberlain, *July 17*, 1028.

Auxiliary Postmen—Increased Wages and Retiring Allowances — Consideration of Claims to, proposed.
Q. Captain Donelan; *A.* Mr. Austen Chamberlain, *July 9*, 141.

Scotland—Postman Black—Delay in supplying Uniform to—Compensation for use of Private Clothes.
Q. Mr. J. O'Connor; *A.* Mr. Austen Chamberlain, *July 9*, 142.

Post Office.

Employees—British Postal Servants from South Africa—Reinstatement of.
Q. Mr. J. O'Connor; *A.* Mr. Austen Chamberlain, *July 22*, 1437.

Employees — Second Division Clerks — Number of Resignations during twelve months ending December, 1902. Causes of Resignations.
Q. Mr. Yoxall; *A.* Mr. Austen Chamberlain, *July 20*, 1136.

International Sea Post Offices—Report of Postmaster-General of the United States on benefit of Establishment of Sea Post Offices on Cunard Steamers, reconsideration of decision with regard to, proposed.
Q. Mr. A. Davies; *A.* Mr. Austen Chamberlain, *July 9*, 150.

Ireland—Emigration Notices in Irish Post Offices, Exhibition of—Removal of, proposed.
Qs. Mr. T. O'Donnell; *As.* Mr. Austen Chamberlain, *July 9*, 160.

Gordon-Bennett Race—Destruction of Films in the Post—Complaint of Empire Palace Theatre Company —Compensation for loss.
Q. Mr. Nannetti; *A.* Mr. Austen Chamberlain, *July 20*, 1155.

Wages, Committee of Inquiry—Acceptance of evidence regarding trippage allowances on travelling Post Offices.
Q. Mr. Nannetti; *A.* Mr. Austen Chamberlain, *July 16*, 867.

Post Office Buildings

Oxford Street Postal Telegraph Office—Sanitary condition of—Date on which lease expires.
Q. Mr. P. O'Brien; *A.* Mr. Austen Chamberlain, *July 9*, 140.

Power, Mr. [Waterford, E.]

Irish Land Bill (*Committee*) *July 8*, 80.

Small Irish Farmers Dwelling Loans—Enabling Farmers to obtain loans at 3½ % for erection of dwellings on holdings, proposed, *July 13*, 408.

Powell, Sir F. S. [Wigan]

Literary Teaching in Schools, Neglect of — Danger of By-law concerning religious instruction—Operation of the Education Act, *July 9*, 233, 244.

Preferential Tariffs—The Position of India.

Os. Earl of Northbrook, *July 10*, 272; Lord Avebury, *July 10*, 280; Earl of Elgin, *July 10*, 284; Marquess of Lansdowne, *July 10*, 288; Marquess of Ripon, *July 10*, 293; Viscount Goschen, *July 10*, 297; Lord Reay, *July 10*, 298; Duke of Devonshire, *July 10*, 301.

Pretyman, Captain, *Lord of the Admiralty* (Suffolk, Woodbridge).

Naval Works Bill, *July 10*, 311, 359, 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365.

Navy, Summer Cruises—Visit of Training Vessel to Lochbroom during present Summer. Question to receive consideration, *July 8*, 14.

Patriotic Fund, *July 20*, 1164.

Patriotic Fund Bill, *July 20*, 1164.

Portsmouth Dockyard—Cost of Sources of Information as to, *July 15*, 696.

Rosyth—Powers of Compulsory Purchase conferred on Admiralty by Naval Works Act, 1895, alleged to be defective. No information received with regard to, *July 15*, 695.

Priestley, Mr. (Grantham)

Physical Training in Elementary Schools —Introduction of Scientific System of Training. Consideration by H. M. Government, *July 15*, 693.

Physical Training in England and Wales —Suggested Royal Commission on—Consideration of, by H. M. Government, *July 15*, 693.

Printing

London Printing Trade Dispute—Refusal of Board of Trade to intervene, alleged.
Q. Mr. Skewes-Cox; *A.* Mr. Gerald Balfour, *July 21*, 1316.

Prior, Lieutenant

Conviction and fine of, at Marlborough Street Police Court — Remarks of Police Magistrate on occasion of.
Q. Mr. S. MacNeill; *A.* Mr. Brodrick, *July 16*, 860.

Prisoners

Boer Prisoners in Ceylon, Number of, etc.
Q. Mr. S. MacNeill; *A.* Mr. J. Chamberlain, *July 8*, 15.

Prisoners—*cont.*
- Female Prisoners. Laundry and Cookery Lessons for, proposed. Reconsideration of appointment of Female Prison Inspectors.
  - *Q.* Mr. Flower; *A.* Mr. Akers Douglas, *July 15*, 686.

Prisons
- Commissionership—Date of filling vacancy—Appointment of Civil Servant of Practical Experience.
  - *Q.* Mr. Malcolm; *A.* Mr. Cochrane, *July 20*, 1149.
- Prison Commissioner—Date of appointment of successor to Lieut.-Col. Garsia.
  - *Q.* Mr. Tennant; *A.* Mr. Akers Douglas, *July 16*, 851.

Privy Council Appeal
- *see* Irish Land Bill.

Provided Schools
- *see* London Education Bill.

Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890
- Regulations made by Irish Local Government Board as to issue of stock by Urban Authorities, *July 16*, 819.
- Date of Introduction,
  - *Q.* Sir A. Hickman; *A.* Mr. W. Long *July 8*, 6.

Public Holidays
- Allowances to Officials on Piece-Work. Granting of, proposed.
  - *Q.* Sir A. Agnew; *A.* Mr. Elliot, *July 14*, 566.

Public Offices (Dublin) Bill
- *l.* 1R.* *July 9*, 128.
- *l.* 2R.* *Com.* *July 17*, 1020.

Pupil Teachers
- *see* Education, Board of—Teachers.

Quartermaster-General.
- *See* War Office.

Queen Victoria Memorial.
- Preparation of site of, date of completion of Work, etc., *July 21*, 1320.

Railways.
- Accidents—Returns Presented, *July 21*, 1249, 1297.
- Rates and Charges. Preferential Rates for foreign Produce. Inclusion in inquiry of question of.
  - *Q.* Mr. Field; *A.* Mr. Bonar Law, *July 8*, 22.

Rasch, Major Sir Frederic [Essex, Chelmsford].
- Aldershot, Parade at—Army Corps in South Africa—Question of Reserves, *July 16*, 925.
- Pensions. John Devine, late 2nd Dragoon Guards, Case of — Application for pension refused, *July 20*, 1141.

Reay, Lord.
- Preferential Tariffs, *July 10*, 298.

Records and Historical Manuscripts.
- Documents of not sufficient value to justify Preservation. Schedule Presented. *July 10*, 271, 306; *July 17*, 975, 1025.

Redesdale, Lord
- Motor-Cars Bill (*Committee*), *July 21*, 1266.

Redmond, Mr. John [Waterford]
- Irish Land Bill (*Committee*), *July 8*, 43, 53, 54, 111; *July 17*, 1041, 1072.
  - 3R., *July 21*, 1322.
- Training Colleges in Ireland, *July 20*, 1211

Redmond, Mr. William (Clare, East)
- Australian Commonwealth and Foreign Governments.—Agreement of South Australian Government to arrangement that on matters relating to Foreign Governments, the Commonwealth Government should be consulted, *July 9*, 149.
- Clare Co., Absence of Crime in—Withdrawal of proclamation under Criminal Law and Procedure (Ireland) Act, proposed, *July 8*, 26.
- Irish Gold Ornaments—Transference to Dublin Museum, in view of the decision as to their being the property of the Crown, *July 8*, 30.
- Irish Land Bill (*Committee*), *July 8*, 11, 84, 113, 116; *July 17*, 1057.
- Limerick, Fair Rents in—Cause of Delay in Fixing, *July 21*, 1298.
- Naval Works Bill, *July 10*, 359, 369.
- Penalisation of Former Political Prisoners, *July 20*, 1243.
- Schoolhouses in Ireland, Suggested Improvement of, *July 20*, 1212.
- Tobacco-growing in Ireland, Plea for encouragement of, *July 20*, 1214.

Reid, Sir Robert (Dumfries Burghs)
- Licensing Acts (Scotland) Consolidation and Amendment Bill, *July 13*, 420, 423, 436, 442, 449, 453, 467, 491, 495, 497, 500; *July 22*, 1516, 1520, 1524, 1530.

Religious Instruction.
- *see* Education, Board of

Remnant, Mr. James (Finsbury, Holborn)
- Locomotives for Canada, Orders placed in Glasgow for—Reason for securing orders, *July 13*, 400.

Remount Department
- *see* War Office.

Renshaw, Sir Charles (Renfrew, W.)
- Licensing Acts (Scotland) Consolidation and Amendment Bill, *July 13*, 478; *July 21*, 1411; *July 22*, 1518.

Revenue and Expenditure
Imperial Revenue—Collection and Expenditure—Return Presented, *July 15*, 685.

Rhodesia
Southern Rhodesia, Indian Labour for—Proposal of Government of Southern Rhodesia, Attitude of Indian Government towards.
Q. Sir T. Dewar; *A.* Mr. J. Chamberlain, *July 22*, 1441.

Ribblesdale, Lord
Motor-Cars Bill (*Committee*) *July 17*, 1008; *July 21*, 1265, 1285, 1288, 1289.

Richards, Mr. H. C. (Finsbury, E.)
Rock Angus Lighthouse, Condition of—Arrangement for Lighting of, proposed, *July 9*, 145.

Ridley, Mr. White (Stalybridge)
Trade Statistics—Statistics with regard to Cotton, Woollen and Iron Goods—Return requested, *July 8*.

Rifle Ranges
Address for Return, Presented, *July 16*, 841.
Distribution of sum allocated for Volunteer Rifle Ranges, Manner of
Q. Earl of Dartmouth; *A.* Earl of Hardwicke, *July 17*, 1019.
Porthcawl Rifle Range—Utilisation of, for field-firing
Q. Mr. Fuller; *A.* Lord Stanley, *July 16*, 861.
Return of number of, position, number closed during 1902, number opened, etc., proposed
Q. Mr. C. Warner; *A.* Mr. Brodrick, *July 14*, 570.

Ripon, Marquess of
India and the South African Garrison—Proposal to place portion of cost of, on Revenues of India—Inconsistency of Proposal with principles guiding financial relations between Great Britain and India—danger to Indian finances—doubtful benefits of scheme—Opinions of Indian Press—Papers moved for, *July 20*, 1094.
Local Government (Transfer of Powers Bill, *July 9*, 131, 132, 133.
Motor-Cars Bill (*Committee*) *July 17*, 1015.
Preferential Tariffs, *July 10*, 293.

Ritchie, Rt. Hon. C. T., *Chancellor of the Exchequer* [Croydon]
Ad valorem Stamp Duty on Authorised Capital—Practice with regard to imposition of, similar in England and Ireland, *July 10*, 307.
British Investments Abroad and Foreign Investments in Great Britain, *July 20*, 1143.

Ritchie, Rt. Hon. C. T.—*cont.*
Brussels Sugar Convention—Duties to be levied on Sugar after Sept. 1—No provision in Sugar Convention Bill for alteration of duties, but for prohibition of sugar importation from countries giving bounties—Certificates of origin of sugar under consideration, etc., *July 9*, 151.
Corn Duty—Result to Farmers, *July 21*, 1302.
Glucose — Rebate allowed on imported glucose and refused to glucose manufacturers in this country, *July 13*, 404.
Government Departments — Committee to consider position and duties of—Formation of Committee complete—*July 16*, 867.
Imports of Fish and Diamonds—Non-publication of value of, in official statistics, Reason for omission, *July 8*, 19.
Income Tax.
  Appeals, Ireland—Proposed issue of instructions for hearing of Appeals in absence of previous returns, *July 8*, 29.
  Collections in Scotland — Alleged grievances as to time and method of collection, *July 13*, 404.
  Returns.
    Issue to Landowners of form of claim for exemption or abatement of Income Tax—No necessity to fill in form, *July 14*, 565.
    Proposed simplification of forms—Recent revision and simplification of form, and issue of explanatory Memorandum, *July 8*, 23.
Inland Revenue v. McDonnell, Case of.
  Amount of Costs, *July 13*, 389.
  Assessment of Income—Grounds for making such assessment, *July 13*, 390.
Rebates under the Finance Acts in Ireland, Claims under examination—Payment of, at early date, *July 9*, 144.
Sinking Fund—Estimated Amount to be devoted to, in Year 1903-4, Aggregate Amount to be Spent on Capital Account, *July 21*, 1313.
Tobacco-growing in Ireland, *July 20*, 1218.
Trade to East African Protectorate—Proposed Subsidisation of British Steamships Trading with East African Protectorate—No Action to be taken, *July 20*, 1135.

Roberts, Mr. Herbert [Denbighshire, W.]
Assam.
Coolie Riot, Cause of, *July 22*, 1444.
Excise Administration — Report of Inquiry, Communicating Information to House before the Close of the Session, *July 15*, 597.
London Education Bill, *July 15*, 779.
Madras Workhouse — Location within Precincts of the Presidency Gaol. View of Government of India on Arrangement, *July 20*, 1433.

Robertson, Mr. Edmund [Dundee]
German Commercial Treaty — Papers relative to Denunciation of Commercial Treaty—Reason for their not being presented, *July 13*, 403.
Naval Works Bill, *July 10*, 330, 369.
Rosyth—Powers of Compulsory Purchase Conferred on Admiralty by Naval Works Act, 1895—Respect in which Defective—Estimate of Cost in Case of Rosyth, *July 15*, 695.
South African Garrison—Expenditure per Week for Maintenance of, *July 13*, 398.

Robertson, Mr. Herbert [Hackney, S.]
Irish Land Bill (*Committee*), *July 17*, 1060.
(3R.), *July 21*, 1364.
London Education Bill, *July 15*, 740.
London Education — Election of New Authority, Arrangements with regard to, *July 13*, 393.

Roche, Mr. John [Galway, E.]
Derrygoolin, Woodford, Lord Clanricarde's Tenants at—Notices to Quit served on —Amount of Rent Due on Date of Service--Reason for Service, *July 16*, 868.
Irish Land Bill (*Committee*), *July 17*, 1058.

Rochester Corporation Tramways and Improvements Bill
l. Rep.* *July 16*, 839.

Rolleston, Sir John [Leicester]
Irish Land Bill (*Committee*) *July 8*, 116; *July 17*, 1058.

Romford and District Tramways Bill
l. 3R.* *July 20*, 1093.

Ropner, Col. Sir Robert [Stockton]
Merchant Seamen—Number sent Home—Cost of Repatriation in years 1898-1903—Return Proposed, *July 22*, 1435.

Rosebery, Earl of
Military Lands Bill, *July 21*, 1254.
Motor Cars Bill (*Committee*), *July 17*, 998; *July 21*, 1259, 1260, 1263, 1269, 1274, 1276, 1285.

Rosslyn, Earl of
Motor Cars Bill, *July 14*, 535.
Motor Cars Bill (*Committee*), *July 17*, 982, 985, 1000, 1001, 1003, 1011, 1014, 1017; *July 21*, 1257, 1268.

Rosyth
Naval Works Bill, *see that* title.
Powers of compulsory purchase conferred on Admiralty by Naval Works Act, 1895—Respect in which defective—Estimate of cost in case of Rosyth.
Q. Mr. E. Robertson; *A.* Mr. Pretyman, *July 15*, 695.

Rothesay Corporation Order Confirmation Bill
c. Ordered, *July 22*, 1429.

Roumania
Trade.
Appointment of Trade experts to safeguard British interests, proposed,
Q. Mr. Hoult; *A.* Lord Cranborne, *July 22*, 1446.
Negotiations with German Government for new Commercial Treaty —Decrease in British Trade with Roumania, etc.
Q. Mr. Hoult; *A.* Mr. A. J. Balfour, *July 16*, 866.

Royal and Parliamentary Burghs
see Licensing Act (Scotland) Consolidation and Amendment Bill.

Royal Military College
Cadets Training after leaving College, Arrangements for continuation of, and obviating delay in gazetting.
Q. Captain Norton; *A.* Mr. Brodrick, *July 21*, 1305.

Runciman, Mr. Walter [Dewsbury]
Cotton Goods, Exports of Cotton Piece Goods in 1872, 1902, *July 16*, 849.
Old Ships—Transference of old ships from British Ownership to Foreign Flags—Number transferred during years 1875–1902, *July 20*, 1134.

Russell, Earl
Motor Cars Bill (*Committee*), *July 21*, 1264, 1267, 1286.

Russell, Mr. T. W. [Tyrone, S.]
Irish Land Bill (*Committee*) *July 8*, 36, 58, 62, 92, 95, 108, 111; *July 17*, 1030, 1032, 1033, 1042, 1043, 1044, 1056, 1064, 1082, 1083, 1084.
(3R) *July 21*, 1347.
Bankrupt Owners, Debts of, Bankrupt owner paid by insurance company. Power to sell under Land Bill in hands of bankrupt owner or insurance company, *July 16*, 854.

[*cont.*

Russell, Mr. T. W.—*cont.*
Irish Land Bill—*cont.*
Sale of Marquess of Ely's Estate, Provision for Sales being made at place of owner's choice, *July 16*, 869.
Licensing Acts (Scotland) Consolidation and Amendment Bill, *July 13*, 444.
Marlborough Street Training College (Dublin), Condition of buildings of, *July 20*, 1168.
National Education in Ireland—Position of the National Board—Management of training colleges, *July 20*, 1196.

Sadler, Mr.
Resignation of—*see* Education, Board of.

Sadler, Col. S. A. [Middlesborough]
Smallpox—Isolation or Vaccination of Persons exposed to infection—Issue of Order with regard to, proposed, *July 21*, 1300.

St. Philip's Chapel (Regent Street) Bill
c. 3R.* *July 20*, 1130.

Samuel, Mr. Harry [Tower Hamlets, Limehouse]
London Education Bill, *July 15*, 728.

Samuel, Mr. H. S. [Yorkshire, Cleveland]
Foreign Countries, Imports from, into British Possessions, Total value of, *July 16*, 849.
Imports and Exports, Increase of, during first half-year of 1903—Average annual increase during periods 1873–1882, etc., *July 10*, 308.
Iron and Steel Exports—Weight and value of, in each half-year of 1901, 1902, 1903, *July 14*, 566.
London Education Bill, *July 15*, 777.
Non-Resident Out-door Relief—Rendering Distribution of non-resident out-door relief obligatory, proposed, *July 15*, 687.

Saunderson, Colonel [Armagh, S.]
Irish Land Bill (*Committee*), *July 8*, 39.
(3R.) *July 21*, 1329.

Savings' Bank
Deposits in Great Britain and Abroad—Amount deposited per head of the population.
Q. Mr. Markham; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour, *July 15*, 688.
Ireland—Accounts of Savings' Bank kept in London—Advantages of arrangement.
Q. Mr. Lundon; *A.* Mr. Austen Chamberlain, *July 13*, 413.
Post Office and Trustee Savings' Banks—Number of Banks, number of depositors in England and Ireland respectively—Facilities in England and Ireland.
Q. Mr. Lundon; *A.* Mr. Elliot, *July 14*, 578.

School Board
See London Education Bill.

Schools.
Schools above Ordinary Limits of Accommodation. Places at which sanctioned, Numbers of Scholars, etc., for which sanction given.
Q. Sir. J. Gorst; *A.* Sir W. Anson, *July 13*, 393.

"Schooner"
see Licensing Acts (Scotland) Consilidation and Amendment Bill.

Scotland.
Allotments, Returns, Presented, *July 15*, 686.
Bonus, Allocation of.
Os. Mr. Dewar, *July 9*, 267.
Congested Districts Board, Purchase of Land by.
Os. Mr. Dewar, *July 9*, 267.
County Councils Clerks acting as Parliamentary Agents—Communication to County Councils with view to Discontinuing Practice, proposed.
Qs. Mr. Pirie; *As.* Mr. S. Dickson, Mr. G. Murray, *July 9*, 156; *July 13*, 407.
Fishery Industry.
Os. Mr. Dewar, *July 9*, 268.
Fishing Boats, Crew Space on—Deductions for Sanitary Accommodation.
Q. Mr. Black; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour, *July 20*, 1133.
Forth and Clyde Canal—Consideration of question of Enlarging the Forth and Clyde Canal, Publication of Report on Cost and Time Required for Work, proposed.
Qs. Mr. Pirie; *As.* Mr. A. J. Balfour, *July 13*, 414; *July 15*, 702.
Highland Crofters and Cottars, Condition of.
Os. Mr. Dewar, *July 9*, 267.
Highland Deer Forests, Enlargement of—Introducing Legislation to Check Extension of Deer Forest area proposed.
Qs. Mr. Weir; *As.* Mr. A. J. Balfour, *July 9*, 159.
Income Tax Collections—Consideration of Time and Method of Collection by Committee on Income Tax—Equalisation of System in England and Scotland, proposed.
Q. Mr. M'Crae; *A.* Mr. Ritchie, *July 13*, 404.
see Licensing Acts (Scotland) Consolidation and Amendment Bill.
Local Government Officials—Participation in Political Contests—Calling attention of County Councils to inexpediency of practice.
Q. Mr. C. Wason; *A.* Mr. G. Murray, *July 20*, 1149.

[*cont.*

Scotland—*cont.*
Lochbroom, Ross-shire—Cruise of Training Vessel to, during present summer.
Q. Mr. Weir; *A.* Mr. Pretyman, *July 8*, 14.
New Naval Base on Firth of Forth.
Examination of Forth and Clyde Canal with view to enlargement, *July 8*, 14.
see also Naval Works Bill.
Physical Training—Recommendation of Royal Commission as to adding medical experts to inspecting staff of Scotch Education Department—Decision with regard to carrying out of.
Q. Mr. Harmsworth; *A.* Mr. G. Murray, *July 13*, 389.
Telegraphic Delays—Brdakages of Wires during gale — Length of delay in transmission.
Q. Sir J. Leng; *A.* Mr. Austen Chamberlain, *July 13*, 406.

Scottish-American Mortgage Company, Limited, Bill
c. *Con.** *July 10*, 303.
c. 3R.* *July 14*, 562.

Scottish Central Electric Power Bill
l. Rep.* *July 14*, 517.
l. 3R.* *July 21*, 1247.
c. 1R.* *July 21*, 1296.

Scottish Episcopal Clergy Widows and Orphans Fund Confirmation Bill
c. Ordered, *July 20*, 1130.
c. 1R.* *July 20*, 1130.

Scottish Ontario and Manitoba Land Company Bill.
c. 2R.* *Com.** *July 15*, 685.

Scunthorpe Urban District Water Bill.
l. Royal Assent, *July 21*, 1245.

Secondary Education.
see Education, Board of.

Secondary Schools.
see London Education Bill.

Seely, Mr. C. H. [Lincoln].
Food Imports from the Colonies and Foreign Countries—Total value of, value of home supply, *July 22*, 1434.

Seely, Major J. E. B. [Isle of Wight].
Army Corps in South Africa, Question of—Probable expenditure, *July 16*, 955.
Military Works (Consolidated Fund), *July 21*, 1388.
Quick-firing Guns for issue to Royal Horse and Field Artillery—Decision as to pattern—Date of commencing manufacture, etc., *July 14*, 575.

Seely, Major J. E. B.—*cont.*
South African War Medals—Cause of Delay in distribution of—Despatch of medals to officers commanding units, for engraving and distribution proposed, *July 14*, 572.

Selborne, Lord
India and the South African Garrison—Proposal to place portion of cost of, on Revenues of India—Contribution of India to Naval Expenditure—Present policy, the work of the Committee of Defence, *July 20*, 1120.

Shaw, Mr. T. F. [Stafford].
First South Staffordshire Regiment—Home Service for, proposed, *July 22*, 1439.

Shaw, Mr. Thomas [Hawick Burghs].
Naval Works Bill, *July 10*, 347.

Shaw-Stewart, Mr. [Renfrew, E.]
Licensing Acts (Scotland) Consolidation and Amendment Bill, *July 13*, 511; *July 22*, 1532, 1533.
Prepared Medicines, Government Stamp on—Regulation of Board of Inland Revenue with regard to—Notification of, to Chemists, *July 8*, 9.

Shebeening
see Licensing Acts (Scotland) Consolidation and Amendment Bill.

Sheehan, Mr. D. D. [Cork Co, Mid.]
Irish Land Bill (*Committee*), *July 8*, 40.

Sheem
Courthouse.
Insanitary Condition of, Necessitating Adjournment of Court—Repair proposed.
Q. Mr. Boland; *A.* Mr. Wyndham, *July 20*, 1151.
Inspection of, refused by Petty Sessions Clerk, alleged.
Q. Mr. Boland; *A.* Mr. Wyndham, *July 20*, 1151.

Sheerness
see Naval Works Bill.

Sheffield and South Yorkshire Navigation Bill
c. 3R.* *July 9*, 133.
l. Royal Assent, *July 21*, 1246.

Sheffield Corporation Bill
l. *Com.** *July 14*, 918.
l. *Com.** *July 21*, 1247.

Shipman, Dr. J. G. (Northampton)
Vivisection.
Experiments under Certificate C—Number witnessed by Government Inspector, *July 16*, 851.

[*cont.*

Shipman, Dr. J. G.—*cont.*
Vivisection—*cont.*
Licences, Violation of Conditions of—Number of Cases of—Enforcement of Criminal Proceedings, *July 16*, 852.

Ships
Old Ships — Transference of Old Ships from British Ownership to Foreign Flags — Number transferred during years 1875-1902.
Q. Mr. Runciman; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour, *July 20*, 1134.

Shropshire and Worcestershire Electric Power Bill.
c. 2R.* *Com.** *July 13*, 385.

Sidmouth, Viscount
Presentation of Wild Animals in Central Africa—Carrying out of Terms of Convention—Co-operation with other Governments, *July 13*, 376.

Simon's Dock
see Naval Works Bill.

Sinclair, Captain J. [Forfar]
Licensing Acts (Scotland) Consolidation and Amendment Bill, *July 13*, 429, 456, 505.

Sinclair, M. L. [Essex, Romford]
Chinese Mails—Conveyance of by Trans-Siberian Route, proposed, *July 16*, 848.

Skewes-Cox, Mr. T. [Surrey, Kingston]
London Printing Trade Dispute—Refusal of Board of Trade to intervene, alleged, *July 21*, 1316.

Sligo
Extra Police, Cost of. Application of Government to County Council for Payment of — Means for relieving Ratepayers of Payment of additional tax.
Qs. Mr. O'Dowd; *As.* Mr. Wyndham, *July 16*, 868; *July 20*, 1153.

Sloan, Mr. T. H. [Belfast, S.]
Belfast
Donegal Street, Disturbance in—Inadequate Police Force, alleged, *July 20*, 1138.
Greencastle, Erection of Arch in—Interference of Sergeant of Royal Constabulary, Authority for action, *July 20*, 1138.
Education in Ireland—Condition of Schoolhouses—Management of Training Colleges, *July 20*, 1190.
Irish Land Bill (*Committee*), *July 17*, 1058.

Smallpox
Persons exposed to infection, Isolation or Vaccination of—Issue of Order with regard to, proposed.
Q. Colonel Sadler; *A.* Mr. W. Long, *July 21*, 1300.

Smith, Mr. H. C. [Northumberland, Tyneside]
American All-Rail Export Rates for Wheat per 100 lbs. from Chicago and Milwaukee during 1900 and 1901, to Boston, New York, Philadelphia, and Montreal and Baltimore — Amount of, *July 15*, 689.
American Railway Freight on Wheat. Extent of, Reduction of during 1902—Companies by which made, *July 8*, 8.

Smith, Mr. Parker [Lanarkshire, Partick]
Licensing Acts (Scotland) Consolidation and Amendment Bill, *July 13*, 429, 462, 469, 500, 504, 508; *July 21*, 1407; *July 22*, 1525.

Smith, Mr. W. F. D. [Strand, Westminster]
London Education Bill, *July 14*, 665.

Soames, Mr. A. W. [Norfolk, S.]
Fiscal Inquiry — Conclusion of, during present Session—Communication of Result of, *July 13*, 415.

Soames, Mr. E. [Devon, Barnstaple]
Fiscal Inquiry. Inclusion within scope of Inquiry of Question of Effect upon British Agriculture of proposed Increase in price of Corn, *July 8*, 21.
London Education Bill, *July 15*, 811, 816.
North Devon Volunteers — Reduction in number of Recruits, alleged — Increasing Camp Allowances, proposed, *July 16*, 861.
Pauper Funeral—Interment of Body washed ashore at Melford Beach, Devon—Payment of extra charges by Overseers at Hartland, *July 9*, 142.

Somaliland
Grant in Aid, 1902-1903—Amount of.
Q. Mr. J. Ellis; *A.* Lord Cranborne, *July 16*, 843.
Military Expedition.
British and Native Losses.
Q. Mr. Pirie; *A.* Mr. Brodrick, *July 13*, 397.
Field Force—Despatches relative to operations of—Presented, *July 20*, 1094, 1131.
General Manning's despatches, decision of Government as to future policy, communication of, to House—Cost of Operations.
Qs. Mr. Dillon; *As.* Lord Stanley, *July 20*, 1140.
Trade of—Value of Imports and Exports for 1903.
Q. Mr. J. Ellis; *A.* Lord Cranborne, *July 16*, 843.
see War Office.

Somerset and District Electric Power Bill.
c. Rep.* *July 22*, 1430.

Soudan

Suakim—Berber Railway—Construction of, Consideration of Project.
Q. Mr. Harwood; *A.* Lord Cranborne, *July 9*, 139.

South Africa, Troops in

see Military Works (Consolidated Fund).

South African Garrison

see War Office.

South African Settlement

British Garrison.

Charge on Indian Revenue for Maintenance of—Consent of Indian Government to proposal—Laying Correspondence on Table, proposed.
Q. Mr. Buchanan; *A.* Lord G. Hamilton, *July 20*, 1136.

Expenditure per Week for Maintenance of.
Q. Mr. E. Robertson; *A.* Mr. Brodrick, *July 13*, 398.

India's Contribution to Maintenance of—Consultation with Secretary of State and Council—Attitude of, towards proposed Contribution—Laying Minutes of Council on Table, proposed.
Q. Sir M. Bhownaggree; *A.* Lord G. Hamilton, *July 21*, 1433.

Linked—Battalion System—Statement of Policy with regard to, on War Office Vote.
Qs. Sir C. Dilke; *As.* Mr. Brodrick, *July 16*, 862.

South African War

Medals

Delay in distribution of, Cause of. Despatch of medals to officers commanding units, for engraving and distribution, proposed.
Q. Major Seely; Lord Stanley, *July 14*, 572.

Royal Scots Fusiliers, 2nd Battalion, Medals not yet distributed to, cause of delay, etc.
Q. Mr. Pirie; *A.* Mr. Brodrick, *July 15*, 693.

Return Home of Regiments having served through South African War.
Q. Sir A. Hickman; *A.* Mr. Brodrick, *July 16*, 856.

Royal Commission Report, Date of publication.
Q. Mr. Pirie; *A.* Mr. A. J. Balfour, *July 16*, 869.

Southampton Harbour Board

l. Royal Assent, *July 21*, 1245.

South-Eastern, and London, Chatham, and Dover Railways Bill

c. 2R.* *Com.* *July 14*, 562.
c. Rep.* *July 21*, 1295.

South Lancashire Tramways Bill

l. 3R.* *July 16*, 839.

Southport

Performance of Band of 1st Battalion Gordon Highlanders stopped at—Authority for action.
Q. Mr. M. Hall; *A.* Mr. Brodrick, *July 16*, 957.

South Shields Corporation Bill

l. *Com.* *July 14*, 518.

South Staffordshire Tramways Bill

l. 3R.* *July 10*, 270.
c. 1R* *July 10*, 305.
3R.* *Com.* *July 20*, 1130.

South Staffordshire Regiment, 1st

Home Service for, proposed.
Q. Mr. Shaw; *A.* Mr. Brodrick, *July 22*, 1439.

Speaker—*Rt. Hon. W. C. Gulley* [Carlisle]

Bills.

Amendments must be taken in order, *July 14*, 616.

Amendments ruled out of order, proposed, *July 14*, 593, 594, 658.

Amendment—Discussion must be confined to subject of, *July 22*, 1553.

Clause in Order, Omission of a, *July 13*, 441.

Discussions on Amendments to be raised later are ruled out of order, *July 14*, 604.

General Debate on every Amendment, Protest against, *July 14*, 657.

Improper Observations, Attention drawn to, *July 21*, 1410; *July 22*, 1530.

Irrelevant Remarks, Attention drawn to, *July 17*, 1057, 1058.

Irrelevant Remarks, Attention drawn to, *July 22*, 1481.

Matters not on Bill—It is undesirable to discuss, *July 10*, 329.

Second Reading Speech, upon a motion to postpone the date upon which Bill is to come into operation, cannot be made, *July 15*, 746.

Statement of New Clauses, *July 14*, 587, 588.

Ten Minutes Rule.

Transgression of, *July 20*, 1166, 1167.

Limits exceeded by Hon. Member in Introducing Patriotic Fund Bill, *July 20*, 1166, 1167.

Third Reading, Remarks on Amendments which ought to be deferred to, *July 14*, 629; *July 15*, 747.

[*cont.*

Speaker—*cont.*

Parliamentary Procedure—Votes and Proceedings—Alleged erroneous entry, the Chairman having acted contrary to the Regulation of Standing Order No. 30, *July 18*, 302.

Patriotic Fund Bill—Bill put down for day allotted to Supply Explanation, *July 20*, 1163.

Spear, Mr. J. W. [Devonshire, Tavistock.]
London Education Bill, *July 14*, 628.

Spencer, Earl

India and the South African Garrison—Proposal to place portion of cost of, on Revenues of India—Effect on Army Expenditure if Scheme be carried into effect—Opinion of Council of India and Viceroy and Indian Council—Necessity of having papers relative to, *July 20*, 1122.

Military Lands Bill, *July 21*, 1255.

Motor-Cars Bill, *July 14*, 542.

Motor-Cars Bill (*Committee*), *July 17*, 982, 997, 1019, *July 21*, 1262.

"Staffordshire."

Mock Courts-Martial held on the "Staffordshire," alleged.
Q. Mr. S. MacNeill; *A.* Mr. Brodrick, *July 16*, 861.

Stanley, Lord—*Financial Secretary to the War Office* [Lancashire, Westhoughton].

Army.

Army Corps in South Africa. *July 16*, 955.

Officers.

Married Non-Commissioned Officers and Officers detached from their regiments—Refusal of option of money in lieu of Rations, &c., *July 16*, 856.

Retired Officers—Employment of. Declaration required from officer on retired pay to the effect that he holds no position of profit—Grounds for regulation, *July 14*, 574.

Pensions—John Devine, late 2nd Dragoon Guards, Case of—Grant of permanent pension, *July 20*, 1141.

Quick-firing guns for issue to Royal Horse and Field Artillery—Decision as to pattern of gun not yet arrived at, *July 14*, 575.

Rations, *July 16*, 966.

Damaged Tin Rations, inquiry into cause of damage—War Office Stock of tinned meat, amount of—Examination of Stock, *July 14*, 572.

Stanley, Lord—*cont.*

Army—*cont.*

Rations—*cont.*

Pretoria—Condemned Rations at—Rations supplied by same firm as those condemned at Pretoria; condemned on previous occasion since 1899—Name of firm, *July 16*, 862.

Remount Department, *July 16*, 968.

Griffin, James, late Royal Garrison Regiment—Army Pension not to be granted to, *July 8*, 13.

Indian Army—Young Officers joining Regiments in India—Embarkation of, during trooping season only, *July 15*, 694.

Military Works (Consolidated Fund), *July 21*, 1394.

Porthcawl Rifle Range—Utilisation of, for field-firing, *July 16*, 861.

Somaliland Military Expedition—General Manning's Despatches to be laid at early date, *July 20*, 1140.

South African War Medals—Cause of delay in distribution of, etc., *July 14*, 572.

Vantyen, J. C., Boer Prisoner of War—Sentence passed on, completion of term of imprisonment—Offence for which sentenced, *July 9*, 147.

Stanmore, Lord

Motor Cars Bill (*Committee*), *July 17*, 996.

Statistical Abstracts

Foreign Countries—Date of issue.
Q. Sir H. Fowler; *A.* Mr. B. Law, *July 8*, 7.

United Kingdom—Date of issue.
Q. Sir H. Fowler; *A.* Mr. B. Law, *July 8*, 7.

Steamers

Coasting Steamers—Steamers allowed to navigate round United Kingdom without certificated Officers on Board—Legislation with regard to granting compensation for accidents arising from carelessness of unqualified Officers.
Q. Sir J. Leng; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour, *July 13*, 390.

Steamship Subsidies

Trade to East African Protectorate—Recommendation of H.M. Commissioners with regard to Subsidisation of British Steamships trading with East African Protectorate.
Q. Mr. Orr-Ewing; *A.* Mr. Ritchie, *July 20*, 1135.

Stevenson, Mr. F. S. [Suffolk, Eye.]

British Cemetery at Corfu—Agreement with Hellenic Government relative to transfer of bodies to new cemetery—Laying on Table of, proposed, *July 9*, 150.

Crete, Government of, Report of High Commissioner on judicial, administra- and fiscal departments—Communication to House, proposed, *July 9*, 150.

Stewart, Sir Mark [Kirkcudbrightshire]

Licencing Acts (Scotland) Consolidation and Amendment Bill, *July 13*, 425, 438, 454, 506.

Stirling-Maxwell, Sir J. [Glasgow, College]

Licensing Acts (Scotland) Consolidation and Amendment Bill *July 13*, 431, 433, 503, 507; *July 21*, 1419; *July 22*, 1524, 1529.

Strabane and Letterkenny Railway Bill

l. 2R.,* *July 14*, 517.
l. *Com.** *July 14*, 518.

Strachey, Sir Edward [Somerset, S.]

Employment of Children Bill, *July 22*, 1555.

Stratford.

Vaccination Exemption Certificates—Number of applications for, during last twelve months, number granted.
Q. Mr Weir; *A.* Mr. Akers Douglas, *July 8*, 3.

Sugar Bounties

Brussels Permanent Commission—Decision with regard to Rates on Russian Sugar—Sir H. Bergne's version of Attitude of H.M. Government towards Importation of Russian Sugar.
Q. Mr. G. Bowles; *A.* Lord Cranborne, *July 22*, 1446.

Findings of, and Report of British delegate presented, *July 16*, 819.

Copy presented, *July 17*, 1024.

Brussels Sugar Convention.

Austria and Hungary, Attitude of, towards demand for alteration of Legistration—Charges on Russian Sugar—Publication of proceedings of Permanent Commission, etc.
Q. Mr. Lough; *A.* Lord Cranborne, *July 15*, 697.

Cartel Arrangement.

Effect of, upon system to be introduced by the Convention—Further information requested.
Q. Mr. G. Bowles; *A.* Mr. A. J. Balfour, *July 9*, 162.

Sugar Bounties—*cont.*

Brussels Sugar Convention—*cont.*

Cartel Arrangement—*cont.*

Effect of, upon proceedings of the Government with regard to the Brussels Sugar Convention Bill.
Q. Mr. Lough; *A.* Mr. A. J. Balfour, *July 9*, 162.

Colonial Bounties, existence of.
Q. Mr. Lough; *A.* Mr. J. Chamberlain, *July 21*, 1310.

Colonial Sugar—British obligations with regard to, Modification of arrangement, proposed.
Q. Mr. Lough; *A.* Mr. J. Chamberlain, *July 21*, 1310

Communication of, to Indian Government—Reply.
Q. Mr. Lough; *A.* Earl Percy, *July 21*, 1313.

Communication of, to Colonies—Replies.
Q. Mr. Lough; *A.* Mr. J. Chamberlain, *July 21*, 1310.

Duties to be levied after September 1 on Sugars from Countries Signatories of the Convention and other Countries—Attitude towards Countries giving Bounties—Prohibition of Imports from Russia and Austro-Hungary—Certificates of Origin of Sugar, Nature of Certificates required, etc.
Qs. Mr. G. Bowles; *As.* Mr. Ritchie, *July 9*, 151.

Imports from Austria, Hungary, and France—Prohibition of.
Q. Mr. G. Bowles; *A.* Lord Cranborne, *July 22*, 1445.

Imports from Austria and Hungary—Possibility of entering into August Contracts during Present Year—Undertaking of Government not to Impede Landing of Sugar under Sugar Convention Bill.
Q. Mr. Lough; *A.* Mr. A. J. Balfour, *July 20*, 1161.

Refineries placed in Bond under Sugar Convention Bill, Nature of.
Q. Mr. Lough; *A.* Mr. Ritchie, *July 9*, 153.

Sugar Convention Bill—Desirability of not taking Bill under Twelve o'clock Rule, *July 16*, 871.

Supply

Army Estimates, *see* that title.

Civil Services and Revenue Departments Estimates.

Board of Education, £5,249,806, *Com.* *July 9*, 165.

[*cont.*

Supply—*cont.*
Civil Services and Revenue Departments Estimates—*cont.*
Department of Agriculture, £106,499, *Com. July 20*, 1214.
Endowed Schools, £530, *Com. July 20*, 1213.
Law charges (Ireland), *July 20*, 1219.
National Education in Ireland, £617,101, *Com. July 20*, 1168.
National Gallery of Ireland, £707, *Com. July 20*, 1213.
Queen's Colleges, Ireland, £2,300, *Com. July 20*, 1213.
Secretary for Scotland, £9,985, *Com. July 9*, 266.

Sutton Coldfield Corporation Bill
c. con. July 20*, 1130.

Taff Vale Railway Bill
c. Rep.* *July 17*, 1022.
con. July 21*, 1295.

Talbot, Right Hon. John [Oxford University]
Habitual Offenders, Punishment of—Amendment of Law during present Session, *July 16*, 850.

Tariffs
Retaliatory Tariffs, Threatend imposition of—Effect on National Income.
Q. Mr. Black; *A.* Mr. Ritchie, *July 21*, 1314.

Taylor, Mr. T. C. [Lancashire, Radcliffe]
Fiscal Inquiry—Inclusion of Question of Retaliating upon Colonial Tariffs upon British Goods, *July 15*, 705.
Licensing Acts (Scotland) Consolidation and Amendment Bill, *July 21*, 1416.

Teachers, Religious Tests for
see London Education Bill.

Technical and Secondary Education
see London Education Bill.

Technological Department
see Education, Board of.

Telegraph Service
Central Telegraph Office.
Holidays in — Compelling Senior Clerks to take Holidays in March, alleged.
Q. Mr. P. O'Brien; *A.* Mr. Austen Chamberlain, *July 22*, 1435.
Tube Attendants, Promotion of.
Q. Mr. P. O'Brien; *A.* Mr. Austen Chamberlain, *July 22*, 1436.
Emlyoyees—Maximum Salary promised by Civil Service Commissioners to Candidates.
Q. Mr. J. O'Connor: *A.* Mr. Austen Chamberlain, *July 9*, 141.

Telegraph Service—*cont.*
Ireland.
Delay in Delivery of Telegrams, cause of.
Q. Mr. J. P. Farrell; Mr. Austen Chamberlain, *July 8*, 30.
Gordon-Bennett Motor Race.
Delay in Telegraph Messages, Cause of—Particulars of Receipts and Expenditure on Press Telegrams.
Q. Mr. J. O'Connor; Mr. Austen Chamberlain, *July 8*, 10.
Telegraphic Arrangements, Breakdown of—Provision of extra staff at Dublin, etc., *July 8*, 29.
Offices, Classification of—Alteration of condition of entrance in Schedule A, Date of change—Conditions of entering Group 2.
Q. Mr. T. Chamberlayne; *A.* Mr. Austen Chamberlain, *July 21*, 1301.
Scotland—Breakages of Wires during gale—Length of Delay in Transmision.
Q. Sir J. Leng; *A.* Mr. Austen Chamberlain, *July 13*, 406.

Telephone Service
Women Operators—Marriage—Allowance to.
Q. Mr. Yoxall; *A.* Mr. Austen Chamberlain, *July 20*, 1136.

Tennant, Mr. H. J. [Berwickshire]
Prison Commissioners—Date of Appointment of successor to Lieut-Col. Garsia, *July 16*, 851.

Thomas, Mr. D. A. [Merthyr Tydvil]
Agricultural Labourers, Wages of, during last fifty years, official information with regard to, *July 15*, 691.
Agricultural Population, Decrease in, Cause of, *July 16*, 853.
Canada Customs Duty—Length of Notice required previous to imposing Tax on imported goods, *July 20*, 1140.
Fiscal Inquiry.
Home Office if engaged on—The Appeal by Home Secretary for Relief of Distress in 1842, *July 22*, 1431.
Local Government Board, Connection of, with, *July 16*, 853.
Re-publication of Parliamentary Paper, No. 299, of Session of 1825, proposed, *July 17*, 1028.
Iron and Steel Goods, Manufacture of, in Canada, *July 20*, 1140.
Merchandise Marks Acts—Effect on Foreign Imports into Colonies—Repeal of Act, proposed, *July 16*, 859.

Thomas, Mr. D. A.—*cont.*

Trade between Great Britain and the Colonies—Resolution at Colonial Conference against adoption of general free trade, grounds for Resolution, etc., *July 20*, 1139.

Trade Statistics—German and British Explanation of differences requested—System of valuation adopted by foreign Countries, *July 20*, 1134.

Wheat Imports from British Colonies—Extent of preference given to Colonial Wheat in Customs Tariff from 1832–1845—Increase or decrease of British Exports to Colonies since abandonment of preferential Customs treatment, *July 14*, 567.

Thomas, Mr. F. Freeman [Hastings]

Preferential Tariffs, Discussions on, at Colonial Conferences of 1887, 1894, 1897, 1902—Reprinting of, proposed, *July 16*, 867.

Thompson, Dr. E. C. [Monaghan, N.]

Drumquin, County Tyrone, Postal Facilities at—Granting daily Mail Service proposed, *July 10*, 309.

Monaghan Union Hospitals—Return of Nurses and their qualifications in, proposed, *July 9*, 145.

Thring, Lord

County Courts Jurisdiction Extension Bill, *July 16*, 828.

Motor-Cars Bill (*Committee*), *July 21*, 1261.

Tibet

Darjeeling and Tibetan frontier—Roads between—Number of miles surveyed, number constructed.

Q. Mr. Weir; *A.* Lord G. Hamilton, *July 13*, 402.

Trade with—Intentions of Indian Government with regard to sending Commission to Tibet to arrange for improved trade facilities.

Q. Mr. Weir; *A.* Lord G. Hamilton, *July 13*, 401.

Tipperary

Borrisaleigh.

Arrests under Criminal Law and Procedure Act at—Circumstances leading to Change of Venue and Order for Special Trial, Authority for, Intimation of to Accused, etc.

Q. Mr. P. J. O'Brien; *A.* Mr. Wyndham, *July 8*, 12.

Crown *v.* Stapleton, Delaney, and Carroll—Application of Executive for Special Jury and Change of Venue, Grounds for Application.

Q. Mr. P. J. O'Brien; *A.* Mr. Wyndham, *July 13*, 409.

Tipperary—*cont.*

Borrisoleigh—*cont.*

Notice of Change of Venue and Special Jury served on Defendants—Excuse of Right of Jury Challenging.

Q. Mr. Dillon; *A.* Mr. Wyndham, *July 15*, 691.

Tobacco

see Agricultural Department (Ireland).

Tomkinson, Mr. J. [Cheshire, Crewe]

Irish Land Bill (3R.), *July 21*, 1356.

Tomlinson, Sir William [Preston]

London Education Bill, *July 15*, 760.

Torpedo Ranges

Naval Works Bill, *see* that title.

Torquay Corporation Water Bill

c. 3R.* *July 9*, 133.

l. Royal Assent, *July 21*, 1246.

Town Councils Scotland Bill

c. Rep.* *July 22*, 1451.

Trade and Commerce

Austria-Hungary, New General Customs Tariff for comparison of Customs Duty contained in proposed Tariff with rates at present in force on Imports from United Kingdom. Copy of translation, Presented, *July 8*, 3.

Colonies.

British and Foreign Exports to, Total Amount of.

Q. Mr. Mansfield; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour, *July 22*, 1447.

Colonial Competition with British Industries, Protection of British Producers.

Q. Mr. Humphreys-Owen; *A.* Mr. A. J. Balfour, *July 20*, 1157.

Colonies and United Kingdom.

Return, Presented, *July 20*, 1131.

Trade between—Return ordered, *July 16*, 842.

Great Britain and the Colonies. Resolution at Colonial Conference against adoption of general free trade, grounds for resolution, etc.

Q. Mr. D. A. Thomas; *A.* Mr. J. Chamberlain, *July 20*, 1139.

Cotton, Woollen and Iron Goods, Statistics with regard to, Return requested.

Q. Mr. W. Ridley; *A.* Mr. B. Law, *July 8*, 17.

Germany.

German and British Trade Statistics, Explanation of differences requested. System of Valuation adopted by Foreign Countries.

Q. Mr. D. A. Thomas; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour, *July 20*, 1134.

[*cont.*

Trade and Commerce—*cont.*
Germany—*cont.*
Retaliatory Duties on German Goods.
Imposition of—Statement of British Ambassador at Berlin with regard to authority for statement.
Q. Mr. Black; *A.* Mr. A. J. Balfour, *July 16*, 863.
Preference in German Market to Country adopting Retaliatory Fiscal Policy.
Q. Sir W. Holland; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour, *July 22*, 1434.
Iron, Steel, etc., and Cotton and Woollen Goods, average prices of, in 1872 and 1902.
Q. Mr. G. Whiteley; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour, *July 20*, 1133.
Roumania—British Trade with—Decrease of. Steps to Safeguard British Trade.
Q. Mr. Hoult. *A.* Mr. A. J. Balfour. *July 16*, 866.
Wheat Imports from British Colonies—Extent of preference given to Colonial wheat in Customs Tariff from 1832–1845. Increase or Decrease of British Exports to Colonies since abandonment of preferemtial Customs treatment.
Q. Mr. D. A. Thomas *A.* Mr. G. Balfour, *July 14*, 567.

Trade, Board of
President—Mr. G. W. Balfour.
Parliamentary Secretary—Mr. A. B. Law.

Trade Disputes
London Printing Trade Dispute. Refusal of Board of Trade to interfere, alleged.
Q. Mr. Skewes-Cox. *A.* Mr. G. Balfour. *July 21*, 1316.

Trade Report Presented
Annual Series. *July 9*, 127. *July 10*, 271; 306; *July 13*, 375, 387; *July 16*, 819, *July 20*, 1094, 1132; *July 21*, 1248, 1297.
Miscellaneous Series, *July 9*, 128; *July 10*, 306; *July 21*, 1248, 1297.

Traffic, Control of Metropolitan
see Metropolitan Streets Bill.

Training Colleges
Cambridge Day Training College. Payment of increased grants to students of College who are members of the University Colleges.
Q. Sir J. Gorst; *A.* Sir W. Anson, *July 8*, 5.
see also Education, Board of

Tramways Order Confirmation (No 1) **Bill**
c. 1R.* *July 9*, 135.
Return Presented. *July 17*, 1024.
c. 2R* *Com.* July 20*, 1130.

Tramways Orders Confirmation (No. 2) **Bill**
Return presented, *July 10*, 306.
c. 2R.* *com.* July 14*, 563.

Transvaal
Deportation of British undesirables, powers of Lord Milner with regard to—Curbing power of, proposed.
Qs. Mr. Markham; *As.* Mr. J. Chamberlain, *July 9*. 148.
Land Settlement in—Scheme of, initiated by Mr. Carlis, position of white settlers under scheme, profits of initiator, etc.
Q. Mr. S. MacNeill; *A.* Mr. J. Chamberlain, *July 8*, 15.
Municipal Election Ordinance, Report from Lord Milner on subject of Disallowing Ordinance, proposed.
Qs. Mr. Markham; *As.* Mr. J. Chamberlain, *July 9*, 149.
Precious Stones Ordinance — Object of Lord Milner in framing Ordinance—Dissenting from such legislation proposed.
Q. Mr. Markham: *A.* Mr. J. Chamberlain, *July 15*, 696.

Trawling
Ireland—Foreign Trawlers in Dingle Bay, Conduct of Steps for punishment of owners of trawlers proposed.
Q. Mr. T. O'Donnell; *A.* Mr. Atkinson, *July 14*, 580.

Trevelyan, Mr. C. P. [York, W.R., Elland]
Corn Prices Return—Granting of, proposed, *July 14*, 578.

Trinidad
Disturbances at Port of Spain—Report of Commissioners of Inquiry and papers relative to, Presented, *July 17*, 975, 1024.

Trinity College
see Irish Land Bill.

Tripartite System
see Education, Board of

Trustees, Power of
see Irish Land Bill.

Tuberculosis (Animals) Compensation Bill
c. Ordered* *July 15*, 816.
1R.*, *July 15*, 816.

Tully, Mr. J. [Leitrim, S.]
Boyle Waterworks Loan, Date of receiving Sanction of Loan, cause of delay in issue of, *July 8*, 28.
Irish Land Bill (*Committee*), *July 8*, 35, 37, 48, 105, 115.

Tweedmouth, Lord

Trust Bill, *July 16*, 823
Motor-Cars Bill, *July 14*, 554.
Com. July 17, 1006, 1008, 1009, 1010, 1015; *July 21*, 1260, 1263, 1269, 1281, 1284, 1287.

Tynemouth and District Tramways Bill

c. 3R.*, *July 22*, 1429.

Tyrone

Drumquin, Postal Facilities at, granting daily mail service proposed.
Q. Dr. Thompson; *A.* Mr. Austen Chamberlain, *July 10*, 309.

Uganda

Grant in Aid, 1902-1903—Amount of
Q. Mr. J. Ellis; *A.* Lord Cranborne, *July 16*, 843.

Railway Accounts—Laying Annual Statement of Accounts before the House, proposed—Visits paid to line by Members of Railway Committee—Publication of Reports proposed.
Q. Mr. S. Evans; *A.* Lord Cranborne, *July 15*, 698.

Rubber—Collection of in—Terms and conditions of Concessions—Laying on Table of, proposed.
Q. Mr. Bayley; *A.* Lord Cranborne, *July 17*, 1025.

Trade of—Value of Imports and Exports for 1903.
Q. Mr. J. Ellis; *A.* Lord Cranborne, *July 16*, 843.

Ulster and Connaught Light Railways Bill

l. 2R.* *Com.* July 16*, 818.

United States of America

Canadian Cattle imported into—Number and Value of, Rate of Import Duty.
Q. Mr. Haldane; *A.* Mr. J. Chamberlain, *July 8*, 13.

Light Dues in, reduction of—Representations to United States on subject of, proposed.
Q. Sir T. Dewar; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour, *July 16*, 848.

McKinley Tariff Law—Reciprocity treaties under, effect of, on treatment of United States by other countries—Effects of Law on Export Trade.
Q. Sir H. Vincent; *A.* Lord Cranborne, *July 8*, 4.

Wheat.

All-rail Export Rates for—Amount of.
Q. Mr. H. Smith; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour, *July 15*, 689.

Reduction in Railway Freight on, during 1902, extent of, companies by which made.
Q. Mr. H. Smith; *A.* Mr. B. Law, *July 8*, 8.

Universities

Students in Hostels, Grants to—Declaration of First Lord of the Treasury with regard to giving effect to, by Board of Education.
Q. Mr. E. Gray; *A.* Sir W. Anson, *July 8*, 4.

Upton, Charles—Customs Watcher

Granting Pension to, proposed.
Q. Captain Norton; *A.* Mr. Elliot, *July 21*, 1302.

Vaccination

Exemption Certificates.
Magistrate refusing Certificate, Case of Crossley, East Ham.
Q. Mr. Weir; *A.* Mr. Akers Douglas, *July 8*, 24.

Stratford—Number of Applications for, during last twelve months, Number granted.
Q. Mr. Weir; *A.* Mr. Akers Douglas, *July* 8, 3.

Glycerinated Calf Lymph, Use of, in Scotland—Issue of Circular recommending use in Scotland, proposed.
Q. Mr. Weir; *A.* Mr. S. Dickson, *July 8*, 26.

Liverpool, Imperfect Vaccination at—Recovery of Vaccination Fees from Public Vaccinators—Issue of Definition of Perfect Vaccination, proposed.
Q. Mr. Weir; *A.* Mr. W. Long, *July 8*, 5.

Officers and Local Government Board Inspectors—Regulations as to Conduct of Inspectors—Powers with regard to threatening dismissal of Vaccination Officers.
Q. Mr. Weir; *A.* Mr. W. Long, *July 15*, 700

Vantzen, J. C.

Sentence passed on J. C. Vantzen, Boer Prisoner of War, Completion of Term of Imprisonment—Offence for which Sentenced.
Q. Mr. S. MacNeill; *A.* Lord Stanley, *July 9*, 147.

Vincent, Sir E. [Exeter]

Fiscal Inquiry—Inclusion in Inquiry of Question of Transit of Canadian Corn through America, and of American Corn through Canada, *July 21*, 1306.

Vincent, Col. Sir H. [Sheffield, Central]

Leiter Wheat Corner—Increase in Price of Wheat during—Amount of Increase, *July 17*, 1026.

McKinley Tariff Law — Reciprocity Treaties under, effect of on treatment of United States by other countries—Effects of Law on Export Trade, *July 8*, 4.

Vivisection

Experiments.

Anæsthetics—Feeding Experiments, Inclusion in, of Starving and Overfeeding Animals — Experiments authorised by Home Office.
Q. Mr. Perks ; *A.* Mr. Akers Douglas, *July 22*, 1438.

Certificate C—Number witnessed by Government Inspector.
Q. Dr. Shipman ; *A.* Mr. Akers Douglas, *July 16*, 851.

Licences, Violation of—Conditions of—Number of Cases of—Enforcement of Criminal Proceedings.
Q. Dr. Shipman ; *A.* Mr. Akers Douglas, *July 16*, 852.

Voluntary Schools

Grants—Resolution of County Councils to Contribute nothing but Government Grants to the maintenance of Voluntary Schools.
Q. Mr. G. Boscawen ; *A.* Sir W. Anson, *July 8*, 5.

see also London Education Bill.

Volunteers

Certificates of Efficiency, Number secured during year 1903—Attendance at Camps.
Q. Sir T. Dewar ; *A.* Mr. Brodrick, *July 22*, 1440.

North Devon Volunteers—Reduction in Number of Recruits alleged—Increasing Camp Allowances proposed.
Q. Mr. Soares ; *A.* Mr. Brodrick, *July 16*, 861.

Officers—Possibility of obtaining "Pass School" Certificates without going through London Barracks.
Q. Mr. Partington ; *A.* Mr. Brodrick, *July 14*, 571.

Walker and Wallsend Union Gas Bill

c. Lords Amendts. con. July 20*, 1129.
l. 3R.* *July 14*, 517.

Wallace, Mr Robert [Perth]

Licensing Acts (Scotland) Consolidation and Amendment Bill, *July 13*, 426, 445.

Walton, Mr. Joseph [York, W.R., Barnsley]

Cretan Consul-General—Appointment of Retired Member of Diplomatic Service, *July 20*, 1143.

War Office

Aldershot, Parade at.
Os. Sir F. Rasch, *July 16*, 925.

Appointments.
Os. Mr. Pirie, *July 16*, 874 ; Mr. Brodrick *July 16*, 881.

War Office—*cont.*

Army Rations.
Os. Mr. Keir Hardie, *July 16*, 959 ; Mr. Maconochie, *July 16*, 964 ; Lord Stanley, *July 16*, 966.

Canteens, Management of.
Os. Mr. Harwood, *July 16*, 925 ; Mr. Llewellyn, *July 16*, 932.

Cape "Ragging" Case.
Os. Mr. Pirie, *July 16*, 879 ; Mr. Swift MacNeill, *July 16*, 933 ; Mr. Brodrick, *July 16*, 947, 952, 954 ; Mr. Labouchere, *July 16*, 951.

Clerks.
Os. Mr. Beckett, *July 16*, 923.

Guns.
Os. Sir Charles Dilke, *July 16*, 898 ; Mr. Brodrick, *July 16*, 903.

India, Defence of.
Os. Sir C. Dilke, *July 16*, 897 ; Mr. Brodrick, *July 16*, 909 ; Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, *July 16*, 917.

Intelligence Department.
Os. Mr. Winston Churchill, *July 16*, 892 ; Mr. Munro Ferguson, *July 16*, 925.

Mounted Infantry.
Os. Sir Charles Dilke, *July 16*, 898.

Promotion.
Os. Mr. Pirie, *July 16*, 874 ; Mr. C. Hobhouse, *July 16*, 885 ; Mr. W. Churchill, *July 16*, 888 ; Sir Charles Dilke, *July 16*, 893.

Quarter-master General.
Os. Mr. Pirie, *July 16*, 874.

Recruiting, Present system of.
Os. Mr. Pirie, *July 16*, 880 ; Mr. Winston Churchill, *July 16*, 890 ; Sir Charles Dilke, *July 16*, 893 ; Mr. Brodrick, *July 16*, 900 ; Mr. Beckett, *July 16*, 923 ; Mr. Cust, *July 16*, 962.

Reforms necessary.
Os. Pirie, *July 16*, 873 ; Mr. Beckett, *July 16*, 920.

Remount Department.
Os. Sir A. Hayter, *July 16*, 957 ; Lord Stanley, *July 16*, 969 ; Mr. Malcolm, *July 16*, 969.

Rewards and Honours, Distribution of.
Os. Mr. Pirie, *July 16*, 878.

Somaliland, Policy regarding.
Os. Mr. Charles Hobhouse, *July 16*, 887 ; Mr. Brodrick, *July 16*, 905.

South Africa, Permanent Garrison in.
Os. Mr. C. Hobhouse, *July 16*, 885 ; Mr. Winston Churchill, *July 16*, 889 ; Sir Charles Dilke, *July 16*, 894 ; Mr. Brodrick, *July 16*, 907 ; Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, *July 16*, 916 ; Mr. Beckett, *July 16*, 921 ; Sir F. Rasch, *July 16*, 926 ; Major Seely, *July 16*, 955 ; Mr. Buchanan, *July 16*, 970 ; Sir Mancherjee Bhownaggree, *July 16*, 972.

Warner, Mr. Courtenay [Stafford, Lichfield]
  Guns for the Troops, *July 16*, 972.
  Military Works (Consolidated Fund), *July 21*, 1388.
  Rifle Ranges, Return of Number of—position, Number Closed during 1902, Number Opened, etc., proposed, *July 14*, 570.

Wason, Mr. C. [Orkney and Shetland]
  Army Rations, Damaged Tin Rations—Cause of damage, Periodical examination of rations in future, proposed, *July 14*, 572.
  Australian Squadron, Estimated Cost of—Colonial Contribution to Annual Expenditure, *July 20*, 1142.
  Baltasound, Removal of Sunken Boat at, proposed, *July 13*, 391.
  Fiji, Administration of—Appointment of Independent Commission to report on, proposed, *July 14*, 575.
  Fishing Boats, Tonnage of—Inconvenience caused to Fishermen by adoption of rules for ascertaining tonnage of Boats, *July 13*, 391.
  Imperial Defence and Diplomatic and Consular Service, Total cost of, *July 20*, 1157.
  Motor Mails—Issue of Speed Regulations—Adoption of System of Speed Registration, proposed, *July 13*, 389.
  Orkney Fisheries—Petition from County Council for carrying out recommendations of Fisheries Commissioner—*July 9*, 138.
  Sale of Land to Lord Penhryn—Consideration received by Crown, etc., *July 20*, 1144.
  Scottish Local Government Officials—Participation in Political Contests—Calling attention of County Councils to inexpediency of Practice, *July 20*, 1149.
  Whitehill Light — Temporary Arrangements for Safety of Fishermen, in event of Whitehill Light not being available before Winter, proposed, *July 9*, 138.

Wason, Mr. Eugene [Clackmannan and Kinross]
  Fifeshire, Pollution of Rivers in—Inquiry into Pollution of Black Devon, proposed, *July 21*, 1316.
  Licensing Acts (Scotland) Consolidation and Amendment Bill, *July 13*, 456, 459, 473 ; *July 22*, 1518, 1519.
  Naval Works Bill, *July 10*, 342.

Water
  Sterilisation of Water for Troops in the Field—Results of testing of sterilisation.
    Q. Sir M. Foster ; *A.* Mr Brodrick, *July 13*, 395.

Water Companies, London
  Accounts—Returns Ordered, *July 21*, 1291.

Water Orders Confirmation Bill
  Return Presented, *July 8*, *3*.
  c. Rep.* *July 17*, 1023.
  c. 3R.* *July 20*, 1130.

Watford and Edgeware Railway Bill.
  l. Rep.* *July 14*, 517.

Weir, Mr. J. G. [Ross and Cromartie,]
  Anglo-Egyptian Convention, Validity of, *July 14*, 577.
  China.
    Hong-Kong.
      Governorship of, Appointment of Governor with wide experience proposed, *July 16*, 865.
      Plague Order permitting treatment of patients in their homes — Reconsideration of Order proposed, *July 21*, 1311.
      Post Office.
        Delay in Erection of New Post Office, cause of, *July 16*, 865.
        Plans for New Post Office, acceptance of—Date of commencement of Building, *July 21*, 1312.
    Railways—Proposed British Railway from Kowloon to Canton—Date of concession for names of concessionaires—Cause of delay in commencement of Railway, *July 21*, 1313.
  Chiromo and Blantyre Railway, Construction of — Date of commencement, length of time, cost, etc., *July 16*, 842.
  Egypt.
    Assouan Dam—Increased area of land brought into cultivation by means of, *July 14*, 577.
    Cairo Lunatic Asylum—Alleged inadequacy of accommodation in—Date of erecting New Asylum, *July 16*, 866.
    Orphan Children and Destitute Poor in—Provision by Government for, *July 14*, 577.
  Fiscal Inquiry — Pay of Government Employees — Inclusion in inquiry of consideration of higher pay of Government employees, *July 20*, 1157.
  Fish—Cold Storage for—Establishment of Cold Storage Chambers at fishing ports and improved methods of preservation of fresh fish. Opinion of Experts, proposed, *July 15*, 700.

[*cont.*

Weir, Mr. J. G.—*cont.*

Highland Deer Forests, Enlargement of—Introducing legislation to check extension of deer forest area proposed, *July 9*, 159.

Highland Weaving Industry—Encouragement given to, by Conjested Districts Board, effect on production of Goods, *July 21*, 1316.

India

Agricultural Banks—Committee Report—Date of Laying on Table, *July 9*, 137.

Area under Crops in, for 1901-1902, etc, *July 16*, 846.

Eastern Bengal Railway—Detention of Sirdar and Coolies on Inquiry, proposed, *July 22*, 1432.

Irrigation Commission — Recommendations contained in Report of. Statement Requested, *July 16*, 844.

Savings Bank Deposits, Increase of. Number and Class of Depositors, *July 16*, 844.

State Canals.

Area Irrigated by Canals for years 1891-1892, 1901-1902, *July 9*, 137.

Capitalised Value of, *July 16*, 844.

Lewis, Island of.

Housing Loans to Crofters, Granting of, for erection of new houses, proposed, *July 9*, 156.

Port of Ness Harbour — Damage done to Breakwater by Storm—Report on extent of, decision as to repair, *July 8*, 26.

Licensing Acts [Scotland] consolidation and Amendment Bill, *July 21*, 1410.

Mecca Pilgrims from Egypt Number of, on two last pilgrimages, line of steamers by which required to travel *July 13*, 403.

Metropolitan District Railway Electric Traction, establishment of system of, Progress made with regard to, *July 8*, 16.

Motor-Car Transport in India, Experiments with regard to—Calling for Report on Subject, proposed, *July 16*, 847.

Navy Summer Cruises, Visit of Training Vessel to Lochbroom, Ross-shire, during present summer, *July 8*, 14.

School Children, Teeth of—Necessity for Medical Supervision, *July 9*, 265, 266.

Tibet.

Roads between Darjeeling and Tibetan Frontier—Number of miles surveyed, Number constructed, *July 13*, 402.

Weir, Mr. J. G.—*cont.*

Tibet—*cont.*

Trade—Intentions of Indian Government with regard to sending Commission to Tibet to arrange for improved trade facilities, *July 13*, 401.

Vaccination.

Exemption Certificates.

Magistrate Refusing Certificate—Case of Mr. Crossley, East Ham, *July 8*, 24.

Stratford—Number of applications for, during last twelve months, Number granted, *July 8*, 3.

Liverpool, Imperfect Vaccination at—Recovery of vaccination fees from public vaccinators—Issue of definition of perfect Vaccination, proposed, *July 8*, 5.

Local Government Board Inspectors and Vaccination Officers—Regulations as to conduct of Inspectors—Powers with regard to threatening dismissal of Vaccination Officers, *July 15*, 700.

Scotland—Glycerinated Calf Lymph—Issue of circular recommending use of, proposed, *July 8*, 26.

Welby, Lord

South African Garrison — Proposal to place portion of cost of on Revenues of India, *July 20*, 1117.

Wemyss, Earl of

Licensing Act Amendment Bill, *July 14*, 519.

Military Lands Bill, *July 21*, 1253.

Motor Cars Bill (*Committee*), *July 17*, 976; *July 21*, 1261, 1288, 1292.

Outdoor Relief (Pensioners) Bill, *July 16*, 836.

Wenlock, Lord

Military Lands Bill, *July 21*, 1253.

West Bromwich Corporation Bill

c. 2R.* *Com.* July 13*, 385.

West Cumberland Electric Tramways Bill

c. Lords' Amendts. con. July 9*, 133.
l. Royal Assent, *July 21*, 1246.

West Indies

Exports—Return of Total Exports and Sugar Exports together with Percentage of Sugar Exports to Total Exports, proposed.
Q. Mr. Lough; *A.* Mr. J. Chamberlain, *July 16*, 858.

Wheat

Average Prices and Duty on—in England, France, and Germany.
Q. Colonel Long; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour, *July 17*, 1026.

Imports from British Colonies—Extent of preference given to Colonial Wheat in Customs Tariff from 1832–1845.
Q. Mr. D. A. Thomas; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour, *July 14*, 567.

Leiter Wheat Corner—Increase in Price of Wheat during—Amount of Increase.
Q. Sir H. Vincent; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour, *July 17*, 1026.

Prices of, in France and United Kingdom—Duty in France on Imported Wheat.
Q. Mr. Harris; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour, *July 15*, 699.

White, Mr. George [Norfolk, N.W.]

London Education Bill, *July 14*, 609, 626; *July 15*, 796.

Whiteley, Mr. G. [York., E.R., Buckrose]

Average Prices of Iron, Steel, etc., and Cotton and Woollen Goods in 1872 and 1902, *July 20*, 1133.

Whitley, Mr. J. H. [Halifax]

Education Board, Work of the Intelligence Department of—Resignation of Mr. Sadler, *July 9*, 255, 263.

Irish Land Bill (*Committee*), *July 8*, 119.

London Education Bill, *July 14*, 601, 623, 635, 648, 657, 658; *July 15*, 754, 790.

Metropolitan Streets Bill (*Committee*), *July 8*, 124.

Military Works (Consolidated Fund), *July 21*, 1381, 1391, 1394.

Whitmore, Mr. [Chelsea]

London Education Bill, *July 14*, 606; *July 15*, 727, 739, 798.

Whittaker, Mr. [Yorkshire, W.R., Spen Valley]

Licensing Acts (Scotland) Consolidation and Amendment Bill, *July 13*, 444.

Wicklow

Land Cases, Cause of Delay in Hearing of.
Q. Mr. J. O'Connor; *A.* Mr. Wyndham, *July 15*, 701.

Wigan Corporation Tramways Bill

l. 3R.* *July 16*, 818.

Willesden Urban District Council Bill

c. con. *July 22*, 1429.

Wills, Sir Frederick [Bristol, N.]

Tobacco Growing in Ireland, *July 20*, 1217.

Wilson, Mr. Henry [Yorkshire, W.R., Holmfirth]

Licensing Acts (Scotland) Consolidation and Amendment Bill, *July 21*, 1426.

Wilson, Mr. John [Glasgow, St. Rollox]

Licensing Acts (Scotland) Consolidation and Amendment Bill, *July 21*, 1408, 1416.

Wilson, Mr. John [Falkirk Burghs]

Licensing Acts (Scotland) Consolidation and Amendment Bill, *July 13*, 430; *July 21*, 1412.

Wilts

Inquiry into Charities—Further Return Presented, *July 13*, 387.

Return Presented, *July 22*, 1430.

Wolverhampton and Cannock Chase (Extension of Time) Bill

l. 3R.* *July 10*, 270.
Royal Assent, *July 21*, 1246.

Women and Education

see London Education Bill—Education Committee.

Wood Green Urban District Council Bill

l. 3R.* *July 14*, 517.

Woodford

Lord Clanricarde's Tenants, Notices to Quit served on—Amount of Rent due on Date of Service—Reason for Service.
Q. Mr. Roche; *A.* Mr. Wyndham, *July 16*, 868.

Woodhouse, Sir James [Huddersfield]

London Education Bill, *July 15*, 787, 789.

Woods and Forests Department

Sale of Land to Lord Penrhyn—Consideration received by Crown, etc.
Q. Mr. C. Wason; *A.* Mr. Elliot, *July 20*, 1144.

Wool

Imports from Australian Colonies—Largeness of, Imposition of Duty on Wool from Foreign Countries.
Q. Mr. Black; *A.* Mr. J. Chamberlain, *July 22*, 1443.

Woollen Goods

Exports to Foreign Countries.
Q. Colonel Denny; *A.* Mr. G. Balfour, *July 21*, 1298.

Woolwich

Royal Arsenal.

Explosion at—Permanent Provision for Widows and Orphans of Victims.

Qs. Sir C. M'Laren, Mr. T. Chamberlayne; *As.* Lord Stanley, Mr. A. J. Balfour, *July 20*, 1142; *July 21*, 1306.

Proximity of Danger Buildings to Gun-Firing Ground — Official Responsible for Selection of Site, etc.

Q. Dr. Hutchinson; *A.* Mr. Brodrick, *July 13*, 398.

Worthing Corporation (Tramways) Bill

c. Rep.* *July 10*, 304.

Wright, Mr. Whitaker

Prosecution of—Incidence of Costs of, Directing Crown to Bear Costs, proposed.

Q. Mr. Lambert; *A.* Sir R. Finlay, *July 22*, 1449.

Wrightson, Sir T. [St. Pancras, E.]

Iron and Steel Imports—Value of, during First Half-Year of 1903, etc., Ports at which Delivered, *July 9*, 138.

Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George—*Chief Secretary for Ireland* [Dover]

Bee Keeping Industry, Ireland—Prevalence of disease of foul brood—Legislation during present session impossible, *July 20*, 1152.

Belfast.

Donagal Street, Disturbance in, Number of Police on Duty during—Satisfactory conduct of, *July 20*, 1138.

Greencastle, Postponement of Erection of Arch in, to avoid Disturbance on Sunday, *July 20*, 1138.

Belmullet and Mallaranny Steamer Service—Negotiations with the Midland and Great Western Railway Company, *July 13*, 410.

Borrisaleigh, County Tipperary, Case of Stapleton, Delany, and Carroll—Application of Executive for Special Jury and change of Venue — ground for application, *July 13*, 409.

Car Fare from Letterprack to Clifden—No alteration in fare charged to Police, *July 16*, 855.

Castletown Berehaven Fishing Industry, Proposed Establishment of Herring curing Stations and Herring Markets to be considered, *July 9*, 157.

Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George—*cont.*

Clare Co., Absence of Crime in—Withdrawal of Proclamation under Criminal Law and Procedure (Ireland) Act under consideration, *July 8*, 26.

Contempt of Court in Ireland, Imprisonment for, Case of McElligott, Nature of Charge, etc., *July 13*, 407.

Congested Districts Board, Proposed Appointment of Chairman of Kerry District Council to the next vacancy on Board, *July 20*, 1137.

Criminal Law and Procedure Act, Arrests under at Borrisleigh, co. Tipperary—Change of Venue and Order for Special Trial in compliance with Provisions of the Statute—Copies of Order served to accused, *July 8*, 12.

Crown *v.* Stapleton, Delaney, and Carroll, Case of at Borrisoleigh, Tipperary—No Notice of Application for Change of Venue and Special Jury given—Exercise of right of Jury Challenging, *July 15*, 691.

Cusack Estate, County Longford, Farms on Letting of—Power of Letting in hands of Land Judge, *July 10*, 310.

Dalkey Revision Court, proposed holding of, in Dalkey, *July 9*, 158.

Doning (Galway) Evening Continuation School—Delay in payment of Fees, *July 9*, 158.

Equivalent Grant (Ireland)—Account taken of Population of London in Calculating amount of, *July 20*, 1155.

Fitzgerald, Mr., alleged Assault on, Circumstances of Case, *July 16*, 842.

Granard Workhouse Nurses Inquiry, Notes of evidence—Copy to be forwarwarded to Member for St. Patrick, Dublin, *July 8*, 28.

Gun Licences.

P. Courane, Castlemain, Refusal of Licence to, *July 13*, 410.

E. Treston, Refusal of Licence to—Further Consideration of Case by Resident Magistrate, *July 9*, 158.

Innishlyre Harbour—Consultation with Westport Harbour Commissioners as to site of new Harbour, *July 16*, 868.

Intermediate Education (Ireland) Examination Standard—Proposed Reduction of Pass Standard for Examination in 1903 to be Considered, *July 9*, 146.

Irish Land Bill (*Committee*), *July 8*, 36, 39, 42, 44, 49, 50, 54, 73, 75, 84, 94, 96, 97, 98, 104, 105, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119; *July 17*, 1030, 1031, 1032, 1039, 1040, 1041, 1043, 1045, 1047, 1052, 1053, 1054, 1055, 1056, 1057, 1059, 1063, 1068, 1069, 1071, 1074, 1075, 1076, 1078, 1080, 1081, 1082, 1083, 1084, 1087.

[*cont.*

Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George—*cont.*

Kells, Landing Facilities at—Improvements not to be Carried out, *July 16*, 855.

Kerry.

Congested Districts Board—Demand for Representation of Kerry on the Board, *July 20*, 1152.

Potato Growing Industry—Assistance Rendered by Congested Districts Board and Great Southern and Western Railway Company, *July 9*, 157.

Killeshandra to Scotland—Alleged Refusal to give Through Rate from Killeshandra to Scotland except via Dublin—Inquiry to be made, *July 10*, 309.

Labourers' Cottages in the Cavan Union—Delay in Erection of, Cause of Delay, Present State of Scheme, *July 13*, 394.

Labourers (Ireland) Acts — Proposed Allocation of Portion of Credit to Counties which have spent all Available Exchequer Contribution —Impossibility of Carrying out Proposal, *July 15*, 701.

Land Purchase Acts—Tithe Rent—Redemption of Charges—Difference in Number of Years' Purchase payable to State and Private Owners. Explanation of distinction, *July 16*, 855.

Limerick, Fair Rents in—Number of decisions announced, etc., *July 21*, 1298.

Loan Fund Legislation in Ireland—Alleged inaction of Government in regard to carrying out recommendations of the Loan Fund Board—Promise of introducing Bill on assurance of its being treated as a non-contentious measure, *July*, 11 ; *July 16*, 841.

Lord Clanricarde's Tenants at Derrygoolen, Woodford—Number of notices to quit served on—Amount of rent due on date of service, etc., *July 16*, 868.

Lunatic Asylum, Ireland—Proposed Return of number of inmates, age, sex, in quinquennial periods—Sources of information with regard to, *July 9*, 146.

Mayo Piers and Harbours, Condition of—Report of County Surveyor not Received, *July 8*, 27.

Meath Rate Collector—Further Inquiries into Case in Progress, *July 20*, 1154.

Monaghan Union Hospital—Proposed Return of Nurses and their Qualifications not to be Granted, *July 9*, 145.

Munster, Proposed Representation of, on Congested Districts Board, *July 13*, 408.

Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George—*cont.*

National Education in Ireland—Denominationalism—Management of Training Colleges—Condition of School-houses, *July 20*, 1204.

National Schools, Ireland—Oral Examinations in Irish—Additional Examiners appointed, *July 20*, 1152.

Nenagh Cottage Scheme — Case of J. Quigley, *July 13*, 411.

Prosecution for Carts without Owner's Name thereon—Case of Mr. D. Buckley, Impartial carrying out of requirements of Law by the Police, *July 13*, 395.

Rock Angus Lighthouse— Lighting of, Work not to be carried out at Expense of General Lighthouse Fund, *July 9*, 145.

River Shannon Fisheries—Amount paid by Board of Works to Fishery Owners, Fishing Rights to be upheld, *July 20*, 1154.

Sheem Court-house.

Inspection of—Refused by Petty Sessions Clerk, Grounds for Refusal, *July 20*, 1151.

Repair of—Dispute between Landlord and County Council, *July 20*, 1152.

Sligo, Extra Police at—Cost of, to be borne by Ratepayers, *July 20*, 1153.

Small Irish Farmers Dwelling Loans—Legislation necessary to enable Farmers to obtain Loans at 3½ per cent. for Erection of Dwellings on Holdings, *July 13*, 409.

Superannuated Irish Medical Officers—Number Superannuated, *July 10*, 310.

Transit of Butter from Killeshandra to Scotland—Alleged Neglect—Inquiry in Progress, *July 10*, 311.

Wicklow Land Cases—Application previous to May, 1902, disposed of, *July 15*, 701.

Yerburgh, Mr. R. A. [Chester].

"Donegal" Postponement of gunnery trials, Owing to defective sights on—Person responsible for defective apparatus, *July 20*, 1137.

Naval Attaché, Appointment of additional to what country accredited, *July 20*, 1137.

Young, Mr. Samuel [Caran, E.]

Denominationalism in Irish Education, *July 20*, 1189.

Irish Land Bill (*Committee*), *July 8*, 84.
(3R.) *July 21*, 1354.

Licensing Acts (Scotland) Consolidation and Amendt. Bill, *July 13*, 432.

Yoxall, Mr. J. H. [Nottinghamshire, W.]

Education in Ireland—Necessity for reform — Deficiencies in buildings, Inadequate staffing, *July 20*, 1191.

London Education Bill, *July 14*, 608, 629, 646, 649, 652; *July 15*, 718, 774, 783, 792.

Post Office Employees—Second Division Clerks — Number of Resignations during Twelve Months ending December, 1902—Causes of Resignations, *July 20*, 1136.

Yoxall, Mr. J. H.—*cont.*

Schools, Question of Religious Instruction in—"Passive Resistance" Movement—Physical Condition of School Children—Defects in Secondary Education System, *July 9*, 218.

Women Telephone Operators, Marriage Allowance to, *July 20*, 1136.

Zones

see Irish Land Bill.